CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Nitish Kumar likely to take oath as Bihar CM this week

The new cabinet will include representatives from all 5 partners of the NDA – the JD (U), BJP, LJP (R), HAM & RLM

New Cabinet Composition

Total NDA strength: 202 seats in 243-member Assembly

BJP	**89**
JD(U)	**85**
LJP (R)	**19**
HAM	**5**
RLM	**4**

Ministerial Formula: One minister for every six MLAs

Likely distribution

BJP	15 ministers
JD(U)	14 ministers
LJP (R)	3 ministers
HAM	1 minister
RLM	1 minister

The Nitish-led NDA government is expected to take shape mid-week, marking another significant chapter in Bihar's political landscape.

PATNA

Nitish Kumar is likely to be sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the 10th time on November 19 or 20, depending on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's availability to attend the ceremony. Top NDA sources confirmed that the swearing-in will be a grand event, attended by the PM, Home Minister Amit Shah, several Union Ministers and BJP Chief Ministers.

Unlike previous oath-taking ceremonies, this one is expected to be held at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan instead of Raj Bhavan, with discussions between JD (U) and BJP leaders in New Delhi finalising arrangements. Senior JD (U) leaders Sanjay Jha and Lallan Singh met Amit Shah to deliberate on power-sharing, while Nitish has been in talks with NDA allies in Patna to finalise the Cabinet.

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office said Nitish has convened a Cabinet meeting today to recommend dissolution of the 17th Bihar Legislative Assembly. He will then submit his resignation to Governor Arif Mohammad Khan before the new government is sworn in. With the Election Commission submitting the poll-related documents, the Model Code of Conduct ended on Sunday, clearing the way for constituting the 18th Assembly. Current House's term ends on November 22.

Dy CM DK Shivakumar rejects rumours, pledges party commitment

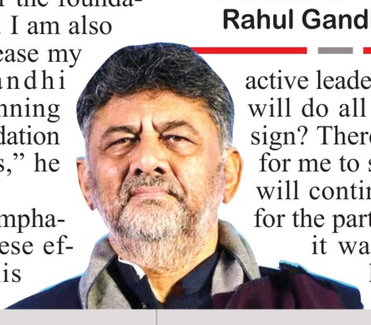
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President DK Shivakumar on Sunday firmly rejected rumours that he might resign from the party post, calling himself a loyal soldier of the Congress.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said, "I have worked day in and day out to build the party, and I will continue to do so. My mental, physical, and political health is fine. I have no intention of blackmailing the party or stepping down from the KPCC presidency."

He added that his immediate focus is on strengthening the party across Karnataka. "We have to lay the foundation stones for 100 new Congress offices in the state. I am coordinating with leaders to finalize dates for the foundation ceremonies. I am also preparing to release my book on Gandhi Bharat and planning Congress's foundation day celebrations," he said.

Shivakumar stated Cabinet reshuffle decisions rest with the Chief Minister and plans to meet Mallikarjun Kharge to finalize foundation dates before December 1, hoping Rahul Gandhi joins.



Shivakumar emphasized that all these efforts require his active leadership. "Who will do all this if I resign? There is no need for me to step down. I will continue to work for the party as long as it wants me to," he said.

When asked about discussions on the Cabinet reshuffle, Shivakumar said those matters are the Chief Minister's responsibility.

"I will meet AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge to finalize the foundation dates. I hope both Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi will lay the foundation stones before December 1, as the Parliament session starts," he added.

Shivakumar also revealed that he is personally contributing Rs 2.3 crore to acquire sanction plans for the new Congress offices.

R Ashok slams Siddaramaiah & Shivakumar's politics

CHAMARAJANAGAR: Leader of Opposition R. Ashok mocked the political moves of Karnataka leaders in Chamarajanagar on Saturday. He said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has prayed to all gods to become Chief Minister but forgot Brahma, the god of destiny. Ashok added that Siddaramaiah, who "had not gone anywhere," is now in Delhi, showing he can challenge even the party high command.

Satish Jarkiholi Urges Clarity on Leadership

BELAGAVI: Karnataka Minister Satish Jarkiholi urged the Congress high command to clear confusion over party leadership in the State. Speaking on Sunday, he said his recent Delhi visit with KPCC general secretary Sunil Hanumannavar was not political, but related to Hanumannavar's new role at NWKRTC. On rumors of his potential appointment as KPCC president, Jarkiholi said such decisions are up to the top brass. He stressed that Cabinet expansion and leadership matters are controlled by the party high command.

RSS march in Chittapur completed successfully

KALABURAGI

The much-awaited RSS Route March in Chittapur concluded successfully on Sunday, bringing a month-long national spotlight to the town. The procession, held in the backdrop of the RSS 100th anniversary celebrations, saw workers hoist the saffron flag at the residence of IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

The march began at Bajaj Kalyan Mantapa and passed through Ambedkar Circle, Basava Hospital, HDFC Bank Road, and Basaveshwara Circle before returning to Bajaj Kalyan Mantapa. As per the High Court order, 300 participants dressed in traditional attire and 50 band players were allowed to take part. The procession covered 1.25 kilometers and lasted approximately 47 minutes, starting at 3:45 pm and concluding at 4:22 pm. Residents, including women and children, lined both sides of the streets, showering flowers on the participants. The festive atmosphere created a colorful backdrop for the march and delighted those who came to witness it.

NIA arrests key aide linked to blast

NEW DELHI

The Red Fort blast case has moved into a crucial stage as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested Amir Rashid Ali, a resident of Samboora in Pampore. He was taken into custody in Delhi for helping arrange the car used in the deadly blast near Red Fort Metro Station on November 10. The attack killed 10 people and injured 32. Investigators say the car was registered in Amir's name, and forensic reports confirm that the man driving the explosive-filled vehicle was Dr. Umar Un Nabi, a young medical professional from Pulwama.

Officials revealed that Umar and Amir had been in touch for months, quietly planning the attack. The case has widened into a larger probe involving highly educated individuals. Agencies say a close group of doctors and academics had slowly adopted extreme ideas over the last few years. Their activities included secret meetings in south Kashmir and a trip to Turkey in 2021. Investigators have already recovered more than 360 kg of chemicals, including ammonium nitrate and sulphur, from makeshift stores around a Faridabad university.

The case first began with police in Srinagar investigating extremist posters in October. CCTV footage led to arrests that helped uncover links to the Delhi blast.

3 dead, 9 trapped in UP's stone mine

SONBHADRA

Three workers lost their lives after a stone mine collapsed at Billi Markundi in Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh, on Saturday. Two of the deceased were found on Sunday, while one died immediately during the incident. The victims included Raju Singh (30), a resident of Panari village. Around 12 people were believed to be working at the mining site when the accident occurred, according to Uttar Pradesh Minister Sanjeev Gond, who visited the spot.

QUICK READ

Six dead in Rajasthan pilgrim accident

JODHPUR

Six people lost their lives and 14 others were injured when a tempo carrying around 20 pilgrims from Gujarat collided with a trailer on National Highway 125 early Sunday. The accident occurred near Khari Beri village in Jodhpur district. Three women died on the spot, while the remaining three succumbed to injuries later; their bodies are at Balesar hospital mortuary. The injured were rushed to a local hospital and then referred to MDM Hospital in Jodhpur for further treatment.

RSS leader's kin shot dead in Ferozepur

FEROZEPUR

Naveen Arora, 32, grandson of senior RSS leader Dina Nath and son of Baldev Raj Arora, was shot dead by two unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants in Ferozepur. The incident occurred near Budhwara Wala Mohalla as Naveen walked home from his dupatta shop. He was rushed to a private hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Police are reviewing CCTV footage to identify the attackers. The BJP criticized the AAP-led Punjab government, alleging a collapse of law and order and rising criminal impunity.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT 2025

Bangalore International Exhibition Centre

November 18-20

Inauguration Tomorrow at 10:00 AM

GUESTS OF HONOUR

H.E. Mr. Jan Christian Vestre
Minister of Health and Care Services, Norway

H.E. Ms. Ilse Aigner
President of the Bavarian State Parliament, Germany

H.E. Mr. Rafal Rosinski
Deputy Minister, Digital Affairs, Poland

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece
Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Australia

TECH SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Business Expo
Multitrack Conference
Awards & Quizzes
Startup Pitches & Product Launches

FUTURE MAKERS CONCLAVE

CO-HOST

STPI | K-tech | Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

ATTEND CONFERENCE VISIT EXPO

GLOBAL INNOVATION ALLIANCE PARTNERS

QUICK READ

Biker escapes robbery attempt on isolated road

Bengaluru

A two-wheeler rider in Shanthinagar narrowly escaped a robbery attempt on Church Road. Three men on another bike blocked his path and tried to snatch his money and mobile phone. The rider resisted, and the suspects fled, but the incident was caught on CCTV. In a similar case near Yeshwanthpur railway station, three armed men threatened a pedestrian with a machete and demanded money. When they noticed someone recording the scene, they attempted to attack him before escaping after he shouted "police." Ashokanagar police have registered cases and launched a search for the absconding suspects.

Woman detained for dating app-related robbery

Bengaluru

A young woman who allegedly robbed money and gold from a man she met on a dating app was arrested by Indiranagar Police. The accused, Kavipriya, and her friend Harshavardhan were detained after Tamil Nadu resident Avinash complained. Avinash, who stays in a PG in Nagasandra and works in a private firm, met Kavipriya two months ago on the Happen dating app. They met on November 1 for drinks at a restaurant. Police said she took him to a lodge, mixed drugs in his drink, and escaped with gold jewellery and ₹10,000 cash worth ₹6.80 lakh.

Music Conference urges schools to teach music

Bengaluru

At the 55th Music Conference held by the Bengaluru Gayana Samaj, violin maestro L. Subramaniam urged schools to include classical music in their curriculum. He said music strengthens a child's mind, supports emotional growth and should be taught like in many foreign countries. The conference, which runs till November 23, also highlighted the need to give equal respect to instrumentalists and singers. Conference President Padma Gurudutt stressed the bond between teacher and student in shaping an artist. Gayana Samaj President M.R.V. Prasad said 900 children took part in music competitions this year. Four young artists received the Yuva Kalaratna award.

Students oppose 15% NRI quota in govt medical colleges

Dr. Kariganur criticized the NRI quota, warning rising privatization harms medical education and urging its immediate withdrawal to protect public institutions

BENGALURU

Students and medical professionals gathered in Bengaluru on Sunday to demand the removal of the 15 percent NRI quota in government medical colleges. The state-level convention, held at Gandhi Bhavan, was organized by the AIDSO, which strongly opposed the government's move, saying it would commercialize public medical education.

Former president of the Karnataka branch of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. Madhusudan Kariganur, questioned the government's decision, asking whether the state was "so bankrupt that it cannot run its own medical colleges." He said that medical education once focused on service, but increasing privatization has turned the doctor-patient relationship into a form of business. He said the NRI quota was another step toward privatizing public institutions and demanded that it be withdrawn immediately.

AIDSO All India Vice President Mridul Sarkar recalled that students in West Bengal had successfully protested a similar policy earlier. He said that when the quota was first implemented in Karnataka in 2019, the student movement was stopped, but the policy has now returned. He urged students to unite again and oppose the move.

Sarkar added that the NEP-2020 and the National Medical Commission policies introduced by the central government promote commercialization in medical education. He said fixing ₹25 lakh for each medical seat under the NRI quota was unfair and would push quality education further out of reach for common students.

Psychiatrist Dr. Shashidhar also addressed the gathering. The event was presided over by AIDSSO State Treasurer Subhash B.J. State Secretary Ajay Kamat, Vice Presidents Abhayadiwakar and Chandrakala, and other office bearers were present.

Catholic leaders defend freedom in language choice

CH NEWS

Kannada is the state's official language, yet Karnataka hosts many linguistic groups. Castellino affirmed their right to preserve mother tongues while honoring Kannada, a freedom supported by the Constitution.

A recent meeting between members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike and Archbishop Dr. Peter Machado has sparked strong reactions from several Catholic community leaders. The group had reportedly asked the Archbishop to ensure that church prayers and services be offered only in Kannada. This request has led to concerns that such a rule may be forced on churches in the future.

In a firm statement, Roy Castellino, President of the Catholic Think Tank Committee and Public Relations Officer of the Mangalore Catholic Diocese, said that while the community respects Kannada, outsiders cannot decide the language used in their religious services. He explained that choosing the language of worship is a right of the community, not something to be dictated by others.

Kannada is the state's official and respected language, and there is no disagreement on that point. Still, Karnataka is home to lakhs of people whose mother tongues include Konkani, Tulu, Kodava, Beary, Lambani, and other regional languages. Castellino said every group has the right to preserve and develop its mother tongue while also honoring Kannada. The Constitution supports this freedom, and governments have long offered assistance to different linguistic communities.

He also noted that religion has helped many languages survive. For example, Konkani has grown in Karnataka largely due to the Christian community's efforts. The state government has also supported the language by establishing the Konkani Academy.

Over 40 participants, aged 8 to 70, walked 5 km in two hours, highlighting the need for safe, walkable streets

Project Walkalur urges clearing construction materials from footpath

BENGALURU

The main purpose of the walk was to identify barriers on the footpath. Several issues were documented

3 Garbage or waste spots	**5** Damaged footpath slabs	**2** Cars parked on footpaths
10 Building materials blocking the way	**2** Shop encroachments	

A routine footpath walk in Jayanagar turned into an urgent call for action after construction materials were found blocking public walkways at 10 different spots. Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner Ramesh K. N. immediately instructed officials to clear these materials and ensure that building owners keep them within their property limits. He also directed staff to prevent such misuse of footpaths in the future.

This inspection took place during the third footpath walk organized under the Project Walkalur initiative, which aims to create safer and cleaner walking spaces for citizens. The walk was held successfully with strong public support.

More than 40 participants, including local residents, civic officials, municipal staff, and members of pedestrian welfare groups, joined the walk. Participants covered about 5 km over two hours, with people aged 8 to 70 taking part. Their presence highlighted the importance of walkable streets for citizens of all ages.

The route covered major areas such as 11th Main Road, Aurobindo Marg, 10th Main Road, Marehalli Main Road, and the surroundings of the busy Jayanagar Shopping Complex. The walk ended near Shalini Maidan, stretching across Jayanagar's 4th and 5th Block.

A total of 22 obstacles were reported, with construction materials being the most common issue. Civic officials confirmed that these will be removed immediately, ensuring safer and smoother paths for all pedestrians.

Kengeri temples to get major development boost

BENGALURU

MLA S.T. Somashekar announced plans to develop temples in Kengeri, emphasizing their historical and cultural significance. He made the statement while inaugurating a 250 KVA power transformer to ensure a continuous electricity supply to Kengeri Kote Maramma Temple, Someshwara, Anjaneya Swamy, and Gramdevate Yellamma temples in the Yeshwantpur assembly constituency.

Speaking at the event, Somashekar said, "These ancient temples, built by our elders, are symbols of our culture. People of all castes, religions, and communities come together here to celebrate religious rituals, fairs, and festivals with great enthusiasm."

He added that efforts are being made to address power issues in the temples and improve essential facilities such as drinking water, proper temple compounds, construction, and cleanliness. "Priority is being given to ensure that these temples continue to serve the community without any inconvenience," he said.

KSHRC to support victims through district sittings

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, formed under the Human Rights Protection Act of 1993, has announced a special plan to assist people facing human rights violations. The Commission will hold sittings in Shivamogga and Davangere districts from November 18 to 20, 2025, giving citizens a direct chance to present their cases and seek timely help.

According to officials, the goal of these sittings is to resolve, review, and take action on complaints already registered from both districts. By conducting hearings locally, the Commission aims to make the process easier and more accessible for affected individuals who often face challenges in travelling long distances. People who have filed complaints, as well as the concerned government authorities, have been encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity. The Commission will hear each side, examine evidence, and make decisions.

Walkathon spreads hope for cancer prevention

BENGALURU

A cancer awareness walkathon was held in Bengaluru on Sunday by Neuberg Anand to spread simple, clear messages about early detection, healthy choices, and regular screening. The event brought together more than 500 people, including cancer survivors, doctors, medical students, lab professionals, partner groups, and residents from many parts of the city. All of them walked with messages of hope and support for those fighting cancer.

The walk began at the Neuberg Anand Reference Laboratory in Shivajinagar. It was flagged off by Sri Devaraju, IPS, DCP of the East Division. Senior leaders from Neuberg Diagnostics, including Dr. Sujay Prasad and Ms. Aishwarya Vasudevan, also joined the event. Participants carried placards with simple reminders like "Early Detection Saves Lives" and "Together We Can."

Karnataka continues to face a heavy cancer burden, with about 87,000 new cases every year and more than 230,000 people currently living with cancer. This highlights the need for awareness programmes that encourage early checks and healthier daily habits. Speaking at the event, Dr. Sujay Prasad said the walkathon was a way to honour survivors and caregivers, as well as the medical teams who work daily to treat cancer.

Sansad Khel Mahotsav promotes sports, fitness

BENGALURU

The Sansad Khel Mahotsav, an energetic sports festival under the national Fit India and Fit Youth for a Developed India campaigns, was launched on Sunday in the Bengaluru North Lok Sabha constituency. The programme aims to build a stronger sports culture among people of all ages while encouraging healthy lifestyles across communities.

The event, which runs from September 27 to December 25, 2025, has been organized by the office of Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour and Employment, and Member of Parliament for Bengaluru North, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje.

During the inaugural programme, the minister shared the Prime Minister's vision of taking sports to the grassroots level. She said that when sports reach local neighbourhoods, more children and young people get opportunities to discover their abilities. She added that the strong participation of senior citizens in today's event shows the community's growing interest in maintaining good health and staying active. Their enthusiasm, she noted, sends a powerful message to the younger generation. Sushri Shobha also explained that the goal of the Sansad Khel Mahotsav is not only to promote fitness but also to identify and support local sporting talent. She said that such efforts will help motivate young people to contribute to building a developed and confident India.

More than 16 teams took part in various sports competitions, including a lively volleyball match held at the MEI Ground in Peenya, located in the Dasarahalli constituency. The event saw participation from MLA Muniraju, officials, local dignitaries, and many enthusiastic citizens.

The festival aims to continue engaging communities over the coming weeks, bringing people together through sports, teamwork, and healthy competition.

HEALTHY CITY KEEPERS

City launches health check-ups for sanitation workers

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation has launched a special health check-up programme for Pourakarmikas, Auto Tipper Drivers, and Loaders who work every day to keep the city clean and safe. The corporation said the aim of this initiative is to ensure that the workers who protect the city's hygiene also receive proper care for their own health.

Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar said that protecting the health of sanitation workers is the corporation's top responsibility. He explained that these workers perform difficult tasks from early morning until late in the day, often facing dust, waste, and changing weather conditions. Because of this, regular and detailed health check-ups are essential.

To make the process easy and accessible, the corporation has arranged health screenings at 73 locations across the city. This includes 45 Namma Clinics and 28 Urban Primary Health Centres, where medical teams began examinations early this morning. The programme covers general health tests, basic screenings, and guidance for further treatment if required.

Kumar stressed that every sanitation worker—from street sweepers to auto tipper drivers and loaders—will receive complete medical attention. He added that caring for these frontline workers not only helps their wellbeing but also strengthens the city's overall sanitation system.

The corporation stated that similar health initiatives will continue regularly so that workers remain healthy and supported while carrying out their important duties. The programme reflects Bengaluru's commitment to the people who help keep the city clean, beautiful, and livable for everyone.

Bengaluru begins action against garbage burning

BENGALURU

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has decided to take strong legal action against people who burn garbage in the city. Officials said this move follows the directions of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who asked authorities to strictly enforce waste rules.

BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda said engineers, marshals, and Junior Health Inspectors will now have the power to file criminal cases. He explained that burning garbage causes serious air pollution and that all waste, once segregated, is supposed to go to processing plants where it is safely handled or used to generate power.

To begin the crackdown, BSWML will file a few cases in the coming days. Action will be taken under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and Section 19(5) of the Air Pollution Act, 1981.

QUICK READ

K'taka Bank Gets New MD & CEO, Raghavendra S. Bhat Takes Helm

Mangaluru

Seasoned banker Raghavendra S. Bhat has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank. With a rich background in banking, finance, and agriculture, Bhat brings a wealth of experience to his new role. A scion of an agricultural family, Bhat has gained expertise in multiple domains, including human resources, information technology, digital banking, treasury and forex operations, insurance, and rural economy. His long tenure with the bank has equipped him with the skills to lead the institution towards sustained growth and greater success. In an official release, Karnataka Bank expressed confidence in Bhat's leadership, stating that he is expected to drive the bank's future growth plans. Reacting to his appointment, Bhat expressed his happiness and assured stakeholders that he would work tirelessly to meet their expectations.

Private College Student Goes Missing in Ullal, Police Case Filed

Mangaluru

A private college student, Malick Aboobacker, has gone missing, and a police case has been registered at Ullal police station. Malick, a B.N.Y.S student at Deralakatte private college, was residing in a PG owned by Abdul Shariff. According to reports, Malick, son of Robiya and Aboobacker from Palakkad, Kerala, left his PG on November 13, saying he was going out for dinner, but never returned. His family has reported him missing, and a complaint was lodged by his maternal uncle, Dr. Azmal T.A., a physiotherapist. The police have registered a case and are investigating the matter. Malick's disappearance has sparked concern among his family and friends, who are urging anyone with information to come forward. The police are appealing to the public to share any information that may help locate the missing student.

Six Killed in Two Separate Road Accidents near M'luru

Mangaluru

Two horrific road accidents in Mangaluru have claimed six lives and left several others injured. The first accident occurred at Panambur Signal on National Highway 66, where an auto-rickshaw was hit by a tanker, killing the driver and two passengers instantly. The impact also damaged a car and another tanker. In the second incident, a car crashed into a circle in B.C. Road, Bantwal, resulting in three fatalities and six injuries. The victims, identified as Ravi (64), Ramya (23), and Nanjamma (75), were traveling from Bengaluru to Udupi's Sri Krishna Matha for a pilgrimage. The accidents have sent shockwaves across the region, with authorities urging drivers to exercise caution on the roads.

Kali Bridge Construction: Piling Test Put on Hold Pending Permit Approval

Piling test conducted at the Kodibag location was aimed to assess the soil quality and determine the best approach for the bridge's foundation.

KARWAR

The construction of a new bridge over the Kali River in Karwar has hit a roadblock, with the piling test being temporarily suspended due to pending permit approval from the Port and Inland Water Transport Board.

The test, conducted at the Kodibag location, aimed to assess the soil quality and determine the best approach for the bridge's foundation. However, the process was halted after hitting a hard rock layer at a shallower depth than expected.

K. Shivakumar, Project Director of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), stated that the company conducting the test will apply for the necessary permit to resume the process. "We will need to conduct piling tests at four to five locations to determine the best approach for the bridge's foundation," he added.

The Kali River bridge project has been a long-pending initiative, aimed at improving connectivity and facilitating trade in the region. The new bridge is expected to replace the existing old bridge, which has been facing structural issues.

According to Shivakumar, the piling test is a crucial process that helps determine the quality of the soil and the type of materials required for the bridge's foundation. "The test will help us decide on the best approach for the construction of the bridge," he said.

The Port and Inland Water Transport Board has stated that it will consider the permit request once it is received. "We will review the application and grant approval if it meets the necessary requirements," said a senior engineer from the board.

The construction company, Poddar Infrastructure, has begun stockpiling materials for the project, awaiting the permit approval to proceed with the work.

Leprosy Cases Resurface in Karkala, Health Department Urges Awareness

UDUPI

The taluk is witnessing a resurgence of leprosy cases, sparking concern among residents. Six cases have been reported, allegedly linked to migrant workers. The health department is taking proactive measures, spreading awareness and ensuring timely treatment to prevent further spread.

Leprosy, a bacterial disease, was once prevalent in the area but had seen a significant decline in recent years. The re-emergence has raised alarm bells, with authorities urging citizens to be vigilant. Symptoms include skin patches, numbness, and discoloration, which can lead to permanent disability if left untreated.

Health officials emphasize that leprosy is curable with timely treatment, available free of cost at government hospitals. The department is conducting a special campaign, "Leprosy Case Detection Campaign-2025," from November 24 to December 9, aiming to detect and treat cases early.

Dr. Sandeep Kudwa, Health Officer, Karkala, assures that measures are being taken to contain the spread, including door-to-door visits and awareness drives. "Leprosy is curable, and we urge people to come forward for treatment without fear or stigma," he said.

The affected areas include Nitte-2, Kukkuanduru-2, Karkala-1, and Hirgana-1. The health department is working closely with local authorities to monitor the situation and prevent further spread.

The department is conducting a special campaign, Leprosy Case Detection Campaign-2025 from November 24 to December 9, aiming to detect and treat cases early

SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR:

- Skin patches or discoloration
- Numbness or tingling sensations
- Loss of sensation in hands and feet
- Weakness or paralysis of muscles

PRECAUTIONS AND TREATMENT:

- Seek medical attention if symptoms persist
- Complete the 6-12 month treatment course
- Maintain good hygiene and cleanliness

Bhakti and Fear of God Should Strengthen Faith: Pralhad Joshi

MANGALURU

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi emphasized the importance of strengthening faith in God through devotion and fear, saying it is essential in a Hindu-dominated country like India. He was speaking at the inauguration of a grand procession of Katpadi Yakshagana's seven troupes in Bajpe.

Joshi praised the Katpadi Yakshagana troupe for keeping ancient stories alive through their performances, highlighting the cultural significance of the art form. He also lauded the Katpadi field for its efforts in promoting devotion and spirituality through cultural services.

The minister, along with MLA Umanath Kotian, Bhojegowda, and other dignitaries, inaugurated the procession, which featured elaborate floats and traditional Yakshagana attire. The procession, which began in Bajpe, culminated at the Katpadi field, where special prayers were offered.

The event saw participation from various cultural troupes, bhajan groups, and devotees, who thronged the streets to catch a glimpse of the procession. The event concluded with a call to promote traditional art forms and strengthen faith in God.

Red Laterite Mining Rates Remain High, Licences Pending Approval

MANGALURU

Despite a significant reduction in capital costs, red laterite mining rates continue to remain high in the district, echoing concerns at the recent tri-monthly KDP meeting held in the city. Officials attribute the high rates to the limited number of licences issued, with only 59 licences approved so far. To address this, authorities have resolved to expedite approvals for additional applicants, hoping to increase supply and subsequently bring down prices.

District-in-charge minister Dinesh Gundu Rao chaired the meeting, where concerns raised by MLC Manjunath Bhandary and MLA Ashok Kumar Rai were heard. MLA Rajesh Naik supported the discussion, highlighting the need for more licences to be issued. Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. informed the gathering that mining is underway on 28 acres and 93 cents, with 29 more applications pending.

Meanwhile, the minister also directed the DHO to take action against hospitals refusing emergency treatment under Ayushman Bharat, following concerns raised by MLA Harish Poonja. Responding to MLA Vedavyas Kamath's remark on ICU shortage at Wenlock, DHO Dr. Thimmaiah said 76 new ICU beds will be added in the new medicine block.

In other developments, the ₹9 crore sanctioned for constructing an RTO track in Puttur remains unutilised due to pending tree clearance in social forestry land. MLA Ashok Kumar Rai pointed out that the project has been stalled for nearly a year, with MLC S.L. Bhojegowda adding that orders for clearing acacia and eucalyptus trees have not been implemented. Forest officials countered that 470 hectares of acacia have been cleared this year.

District Administration Assures No Hindrance to Kambala, Yakshagana, and Jatra Celebrations

MANGALURU

The district administration has assured that it will not hinder the celebrations of Kambala, Yakshagana, and Jatra, which are traditional events in the region. However, the administration has also advised the organizers to ensure that these events do not disturb the local residents.

The assurance was given at the quarterly KDP meeting chaired by District-in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. MLA Ashok Kumar Rai had raised concerns about the police obstructing Kambala events at night, citing the use of loudspeakers. MLA Bhagirathi Muralya also requested that the administration should not interfere with the Jatra celebrations.

District Collector Darshan H.V. clarified that the administration has not imposed any restrictions on these events. District Police Superintendent Dr. Arun K. stated that the police take action only when there are complaints from local residents.

The meeting also discussed other issues, including the delayed construction of the Regional Transport Office (RTO) track in Puttur, the addition of new beds to the district hospital, and the transfer of crop protection licenses. The minister directed the officials to investigate and take action on the issues raised.

The meeting was attended by MLAs, MLCs, and other officials, who discussed various issues related to the district's development and administration.

Rare Coins and Stamps Exhibition in City

MANGALURU

The City is set to host a rare exhibition of coins and stamps from November 22 to 23 at the TMA Pai Convention Centre. The event, organised by M. Prashant Sheth, a renowned numismatist and owner of S.L. Sheth Jewellery, will feature a collection of 800 coins from 40 countries, 2,000 stamps, and 1,500 postcards.

The exhibition aims to inspire the younger generation and showcase the rich cultural heritage of India. Prashant Sheth's collection includes a rare 310-coin collection of the Ganga dynasty, 65 coins of the Kadamba dynasty, and 2,100 British India coins.

The event will be inaugurated by Mangalore University Vice-Chancellor P.L. Dharma on November 22, and will feature a seminar with expert speakers on November 23. The exhibition is open to the public from 10 am to 8 pm on both days, and students from 55 educational institutions have been invited to attend.

The event is expected to attract numismatists, philatelists, and history enthusiasts from across the country.

'Chess Park' Inaugurated at Govt School in Isloor, Sirsi

KARWAR

A 'Chess Park' has been inaugurated at the Government High School in Isloor, Sirsi, with the aim of promoting chess among students and locals. The park, set up at a cost of ₹8 lakh, features 10 seating arrangements, chess boards, and pieces, as well as a stage and decorative plants.

The initiative is part of efforts to provide quality facilities to students in rural areas and encourage them to take up chess. The park is open to students and locals, and those interested can register their names at the school to use the facilities.

The park features quotes from renowned chess players and interesting facts about the game. The school has seen success in chess, with three students representing the state level and over 75 students showing interest in the game.

The 'Chess Park' is a realization of a dream project of former District Panchayat CEO, Ishwar Kandou, and is expected to provide a conducive environment for chess enthusiasts to hone their skills.

ISRO and CPCRI Launch Drone Survey to Combat Arecanut Yellow Disease in Karnataka

SULLIA

The Union Government has launched a drone-based scientific survey to combat Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) affecting arecanut crops in Karnataka's Sullia taluk. Led jointly by ISRO and the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), the initiative aims to rescue the state's arecanut sector from the crippling disease.

The survey, covering 2.5 sq. km in Aranthodu and Peraje villages, uses specialized drones to capture high-resolution images and videos of arecanut crowns, detecting yellowing patterns, stress indicators, and disease progression. The data will be analyzed and integrated with satellite datasets to map the disease across larger regions.

Dakshina Kannada MP Brijesh Chowta hailed the initiative, saying it's a crucial step toward understanding the disease scientifically. The survey is expected to identify patterns of spread, track physiological changes in infected palms, and provide actionable data for long-term solutions.

Experts believe the combination of drone imagery and satellite analytics will help researchers detect subtle variations in leaf color and canopy health, enabling early-warning models to alert growers before the disease spreads widely.

NITK Surathkal Sets Record with 1,995 Degrees Awarded at 23rd Convocation

MANGALURU

NITK Surathkal marked a major milestone at its 23rd Annual Convocation by awarding a record 1,995 degrees, including 193 PhDs, underscoring its rising stature in engineering and research.

The ceremony drew a large gathering of students and families as degrees were conferred across programmes: 935 B.Tech, 641 M.Tech, 23 M.Tech (Research), 66 MCA, 69 MBA, and 68 M.Sc. Volvo Group India President and MD Kamal Bali, delivering the convocation address, stressed holistic sustainability and urged graduates to lead future transformation, praising NITK's strong industry and alumni ties.

Director Prof. B. Ravi highlighted achievements in innovation and entrepreneurship, citing successful startups founded by NITK alumni. A four-stage parallel system enabled smooth degree distribution, and Alumni Association President Niranjan Mahabalappa welcomed the Class of 2025 to the global network.

Counsellor Arrested for Molesting Woman at Wellness Centre in Kapu

UDUPI

A shocking incident has come to light in Kapu, where a counsellor has been arrested for allegedly molesting a woman who had approached him for counselling. The incident occurred at the Sunanda Wellness Centre in Kankanadaguttu, Mangaluru. The victim, who had sought counselling for marital issues, alleged that the accused, Niranjan Shekhar Shetty (52), had touched her inappropriately and sexually harassed her during a counselling session. The woman filed a complaint with the Kapu police, leading to the arrest of the accused.

The police investigation revealed that the accused had taken advantage of the woman's vulnerability and committed the heinous act. The accused has been produced before the court, and further investigation is underway.

The incident has sent shockwaves in the community, highlighting the need for stricter laws and regulations to protect women from such heinous crimes. The police have assured that they will ensure justice is served and the accused is punished accordingly.

QUICK READ

Hubballi police shoot murder suspects during escape bid

Hubballi

Hubballi police opened fire on two murder suspects who allegedly attacked an inspector and tried to flee while being taken to identify hideouts of other accused. The suspects — Balaraj alias Bangara Balya and Mohammad Sheikh — are prime accused in the brutal November 13 murder of Mohammad Mallik Jan on Mantur Road, where he was stabbed to death. Both men are known associates of the Shyam Jadav gang, which has been involved in frequent gang wars with the MD Dawood group. During the spot inspection, the duo reportedly assaulted the police team and attempted to escape, prompting officers to fire in self-defense, injuring both in the leg. Inspector S.R. Naik and constables Noor Ahmad Neelagaar and Chaluvadi sustained injuries and were admitted to KIMS Hospital.

Ullal hosts district-level youth festival

Ullal

The district administration of Dakshina Kannada, in collaboration with the District Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, My Bharat Dakshina Kannada, Yuva Janokoota, Konaje Gram Panchayat, Samarpana Parivar Service Trust (R), Mangalore, and other organizations, organized the district-level Youth Festival at Asai Goli Private Hall. The event was inaugurated by Taranath Gatti, President of the Tulu Sahitya Academy, with Geetha Damodar, President of Konaje Gram Panchayat, presiding. Key dignitaries included Umar Y. H., President of the Berry Academy; Shahid T.K. Tekkil, Chairman of Karnataka State Minimum Wage Advisory Committee; Ravindra Rai Kallimaar, President of Bunts Association Ullal; A.K. Abdul Rahman Kodijal, President of Mangala Rural Youth Association; Abdul Razak, President of Lions Club Kudla; and other officials.

Birsa Munda was a great leader of the tribal communities: MLC

Birsa Munda, tribal leader, emerged as a political activist for his community

MYSURU

Birsa Munda was a great leader of the tribal communities and he emerged both as a political leader and as a spiritual guide, said Legislative Council Member C.N. Manjegowda.

He spoke after inaugurating the programme by lighting the lamp and offering floral tributes to the portrait of Birsa Munda, during the celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Shri Birsa Munda and the Prime Minister's Janjatiya Adivasi Nyaya Maha Gaurav Divas Abhiyan, organised jointly by the Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute, Mysuru District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and the Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare at the Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute in Mysuru.

He said that the government has taken up the construction of 33 multipurpose buildings for the development of tribal communities, of which four buildings have been completed. The programme was inaugurated with the dedication of these newly completed buildings.

MLC said that Birsa Munda fought against the British as early as 1898 and stood up for the rights of the tribal communities even in those times. His contribution to the tribal population is immense. The present generation must study more about him, and it is for this reason that both the Central and State Governments are celebrating his birth anniversary today.

Manjegowda said that the government has implemented many schemes for the tribal communities, but efforts should be made to ensure these schemes reach them. Even today, they face several challenges. Both the Central and State Governments must introduce more programmes to address these issues. Officials must create awareness among tribal people about the schemes available to them. All tribal communities should make full use of the benefits provided by the government, he said.

Aerospace engineering students arrested for burglaries

Two aerospace engineering students were arrested in Chikkaballapur for burglarising homes near their neighbourhood to fund leisure activities and college entertainment

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Chikkaballapur police have arrested two aerospace engineering students who allegedly turned to house burglary to finance their leisure activities on campus. The accused, Chetan and Abhishek, are students at a reputed engineering college in Bengaluru and had reportedly become close friends after enrolling in the same programme.

According to police, Chetan is a resident of Chamarajpet in Chikkaballapura city, while Abhishek hails from Mandya district. Both students were keen on indulging in entertainment and outings with their friends, but lacked the money to support their plans. In search of quick cash, they devised a plan to steal from houses located near Chetan's residence. Their first target was the home of Vinuta, a schoolteacher in Chamarajpet. Taking advantage of the family's absence, the duo broke into the house and stole gold jewellery worth approximately ₹6.25 lakh. Emboldened by their success, they soon attempted another burglary in the same locality. This time, they entered the residence of a woman named Shanthamma and escaped with ₹85,000 in cash along with additional gold ornaments.

Police said the students used the stolen money for outings, entertainment, and personal expenses, believing they would not be suspected due to their academic background. However, following complaints from the victims and subsequent investigation, Chikkaballapura police identified the suspects and apprehended both of them.

The arrests have shocked locals as well as college authorities, who were unaware of the students' involvement in criminal activities. After interrogation, the two have been remanded to judicial custody. Police have also recovered a substantial portion of the stolen valuables.

Udupi hosts special health camp for senior citizens

UDUPI

A special medical camp for senior citizens was recently organized at the Brahmagiri Sai Hall in Udupi to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The event was jointly conducted by the Brahmagiri Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samiti, Udupi Gandhi Hospital, Manipal KMC Hospital, Indian Medical Association (Udupi & Manipal division), Sri Krishna Yoga Kendra, and the Senior Citizens' Forum of Udupi.

The program was inaugurated by Anand Kundapur, District President of Sathya Sai Service Organizations, Udupi. Dr. Anant Shenai advised seniors to regularly consult doctors and maintain healthy lifestyles, including heart, diabetes, and blood pressure checks, daily exercise, walking, moderate diet, reduced mobile use, and reading habits.

The camp featured Dr. Suresh Hegde, Dr. Anant Shenai, Dr. Shivashankar, Dr. Kasturi Nayak, and 20 paramedical staff. Amit Shetty from Sri Krishna Yoga Kendra and Murali Dhar of the Senior Citizens' Forum were present. A total of 157 senior citizens participated, receiving multiple health screenings and personalized guidance.

NDA alliance to hold massive farmer protest in Ranebennur

HAVERI

Former MLA Arunkumar Poojara announced that a large-scale protest has been scheduled in Ranebennur on November 17 under the banner of the NDA alliance, including BJP, JDS, Raitha Morcha, and various farmer organizations, condemning the anti-farmer policies of the Congress-led state government.

Speaking at a press conference at the BJP office, Poojara said the protest march will begin at HESCOM Vinayak Temple and proceed through the bus stand, Court Circle, Kurabageri Cross, and Old P.B. Road. The demonstrators will demand the opening of procurement centers under the support price scheme for sugarcane, maize, and paddy, and a petition will be submitted to the state government through the Tahsildar.

Activists from BJP, JDS, Raitha Morcha, and farmer organizations urged the public to join in large numbers to ensure the protest's success.

Poojara also highlighted the NDA alliance's unprecedented victory in the recent Bihar assembly elections, confirming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue as the country's leader. He extended congratulations to voters who supported Modi.

BJP state unit Vice President Dr. Basavaraj Kelagara, K. Shivalingappa, S.S. Ramalingannavara, Subhas Shiragеri, Siddu Chikkabidari, Manjunath Kati, A.B. Patil, Cholappa Kasavala, Dr. Narayan Pawar, Mallikarjun Angadi, Bharathi Jambagi, and Prakash Poojary, Ningaraja Kodihalli were present at the press meet.

Environment lovers pay homage to Saalumarada Thimmakka

MYSURU

In front of the Saalumarada Thimmakka Park located in Jayanagar in Mysuru, environment lovers paid homage to the late Padma Shri awardee and "Mother of Trees," Saalumarada Thimmakka, by holding her photograph and offering their respects.

Speaking on the occasion, noted physician Dr. S.P. Yoganna said the great mother who nurtured trees as her own children has set an example for the entire world through her love and concern for the environment. Walking on the path she has shown is the true tribute they can offer her.

K.B. Lingaraju, President of the Mysuru Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the credit for planting and nurturing more than 8,000 saplings goes to Thimmakka. She has been honoured with numerous awards including the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, Nadoja Award of Hampi Kannada University, and the Padma Shri from the Government of India. May her achievements inspire today's younger generation. Her demise is an irreparable loss to Karnataka. May God grant peace to her soul and strength to her family members and admirers to bear this grief.

On this occasion, those present included KPCC member Nazarbad Nataraj, JDS Working President S. Prakash Priyadarshan, G. Raghavendra, Vardhe Gowda, Jeevadara Blood Bank Director Girish, Kadakol Jagadish, Apoorva Suresh, Lokesh, Jatti Prasad, Suchendra, and several others.

Recommendation to increase NREGA working days: CEO

DAVANAGERE

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Gitte Madhava Vithalarao emphasized the government's commitment to the welfare of NREGA workers while addressing a free health check-up camp organized by the Gram Panchayat for wage laborers at Kadaranaikanahalli. He noted that the government recently provided Rs 2 lakh in compensation to a laborer who tragically died while working under the scheme.

Vithalarao highlighted the NREGA program's dual role in providing employment in rural areas and ensuring social security. The scheme currently guarantees 100 days of work per family, but workers at the camp requested an extension to 150 days. The CEO assured them that a formal recommendation to increase the working days would be submitted to the government.

He urged workers to take their health seriously and utilize government health services without neglecting symptoms or avoiding health camps. District Tuberculosis Eradication Officer Dr. Murali added that if private treatment is required, facilities covering up to Rs 25 lakh are available under government schemes.

The health camp screened over 150 NREGA workers for various ailments. Taluk Medical Officer Abdul Khader, NREGA Assistant Director GR Suresh, PDO Shilpa Mallesh, Gram Panchayat President Kamakshi Ashok, Dr. Karthik, Senior Health Inspector Nagaraj, Gram Panchayat member V. Kuberappa, Chakkadi Chandrappa, Parasurama, Health Department staff, Asha workers, and other Gram Panchayat staff actively participated, ensuring smooth execution of the camp and raising awareness about health and safety among rural workers.

Cooperative societies are farmers' backbone: Savadi

BAGALKOT

MLA Siddu Savadi emphasized that while farmers form the backbone of the nation, cooperative societies play a crucial role in the country's economic development by supporting them.

He made the remarks while presiding over the 72nd Cooperative Week program held at Teradala, organized under the auspices of the Cooperative and Souhardha Associations of Teradala and Rabakavi-Banahatti taluks.

Savadi noted that many cooperatives face bankruptcy due to lending to non-members and violating regulations. Misuse of deposited funds can also cause significant losses. A leading cooperative official revealed that member deposits in his cooperative were misappropriated for film production.

Assistant Director of Audit of Cooperative Societies, Sunil Pattar, spoke at the event, and Lord Gangadhar of Hiremath was also present. The program included hoisting the flag and worshipping a portrait of Siddhan Gowda Patil, the founder of Sahakar.

Farmers demand cowpea procurement center, adequate compensation

DHARWAD

BJP Navalgund Mandal members staged a protest urging the government to establish a cowpea procurement center and implement fixed prices for cow ghee. They also demanded adequate compensation for damaged crops.

The demonstration took place in front of the Tahsildar's office in the town. Former Minister Shankar Patil Munenakoppa highlighted that continuous rains had severely damaged maize, onions, and other crops, leading to a sharp decline in market prices.

While the central government has fixed a support price of Rs 2,400 per quintal for maize, the current market rate stands at Rs 1,600, leaving farmers in distress.

Munenkoppa called on the state government to start a procurement center to alleviate farmers' difficulties. He further demanded that the central MSP of Rs 2,400 and a state incentive of Rs 600 be combined to ensure a total effective price of Rs 3,000 per quintal. Compensation should also be distributed for all affected crops.

Present at the protest were Mandal President Gangappa Manami, AB Hiremath, Prabhu Ibrahimpur, Jayaprakash Badami, Nagesh Mudigowdra, Shanmukha Gurikara, Manjunath Gani, Siddanna Kitageri, Siddana Gowda Patil, Basavaraja Kattimani, Basavaraj Chakrasali, Mahantesh Kalala, Sharanappa Hakkaraki, Basavaraja Kataraki, and Devaraj Dadibavi.

CREATIVITY TAKES CENTERSTAGE

'Club Culmination' celebrated at Narayana e-Techno

TUMAKURU

Narayana e-Techno School hosted a vibrant and multidimensional 'Club Culmination 2025' on Friday, transforming its campus into a hub of creativity, innovation and experiential learning. The event featured an impressive display of students' talents across art, science, technology, communication and entrepreneurship, earning enthusiastic appreciation from parents, teachers and invited guests.

Chief Guest Sri Niyukta V. R. Ela Eno Mambunath, Senior Scientist (Toxicology), praised the young participants for their diverse skills. "Art, knowledge, science, technology and innovative thinking are blossoming together under one roof," he said, commending the school's efforts to foster holistic development.

Explaining the foundation of the club initiative, Dr. Sindhoora, Director – Narayana Group of Schools, said the concept grew from a single question: how to create spaces where students learn beyond textbooks. "Through these clubs, students are encouraged to create, experiment, collaborate and express," she said.

The school has established four key clubs — Pixel Palette (Digital Creativity), Synergy X (STEM & Aerospace), Idea Vault (Entrepreneurship & Innovation) and Global Vox (Public Discourse & Diplomacy) — each designed to enhance creativity, critical thinking, communication and innovation. Over recent months, classrooms evolved into design studios, discussion forums and innovation labs.

Principal Mrs. Priyanka shared that students who were once hesitant now confidently present ideas, build models and lead projects. She noted that, for the first time in Karnataka, nearly 13,000 students are showcasing their progress through this culmination. "What began as a small initiative has become a movement celebrating creativity and academic excellence," she said.

The school extended gratitude to its academic team, club trainers, R&D department, teachers and parents for their support. Addressing students, Dr. Sindhoora added, "You dreamed it, you did it, and today you dazzled." She emphasized that Term-2 will bring even more hands-on learning opportunities. Club Culmination 2025 marks a significant milestone in Narayana's journey toward experiential and future-ready learning.

Cooperative sector empowers rural communities: U.T. Khadar

Karnataka Assembly Speaker U.T. Khadar praised cooperative institutions for empowering rural communities and promoting economic self-reliance nationwide

MANGALURU

Highlighting the vital role of cooperative institutions in strengthening the economic self-reliance of rural communities, Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khadar praised the sector for its immense contribution to the nation's development. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 72nd All India Cooperative Week 2025, held on Sunday at Karavali Utsava Maidan, Mangaluru, organized under the leadership of the Dakshina Kannada District Central Cooperative Bank in collaboration with various cooperative organizations. The theme of this year's celebrations was "Cooperative Institutions as Drivers of a Self-Reliant India."

Khadar said that cooperative institutions have empowered rural populations, women, and marginalized groups, providing opportunities for self-sufficiency. In times when nationalized banks hesitated, cooperative banks under leaders like Dr. M.N. Rajendra Kumar have extended loans, supporting the establishment of several institutions and initiatives. He wished that the cooperative sector continues to contribute significantly to the country's progress in the coming years.

Dr. M.N. Rajendra Kumar, President of SCDCC Bank, welcomed the gathering and emphasized that cooperative banks have consistently addressed the economic needs of district residents, including urgent requirements like education and weddings. The celebrations also included discussions on "Strengthening Rural Development through Cooperative Institutions." G.T. Devegowda, President of Karnataka State Cooperative Federation, highlighted the sector's role in empowering women and promoting inclusive growth.

A vibrant, colorful procession showcased over 50 tableaux, depicting agricultural activities, fisheries, self-help groups, rural banking, and cultural performances. During the celebrations, the "Cooperative Manikya Awards" were presented to three outstanding cooperative societies from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. Additionally, exhibitions of self-help groups and other cooperative initiatives were set up, and the 'Cooperative Smarana' publication was released. SCDCC Bank contributed ₹1.62 crore to the Karnataka State Cooperative Federation Education Fund, handed over by Dr. M.N. Rajendra Kumar through G.T. Devegowda.

DC urges tribal communities to excel

KARWAR

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla urged tribal communities to come to the forefront through education and by utilizing government facilities. Speaking at the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti and Janajatiya Gaurava Day programme organized by the Scheduled Tribes Department, he highlighted Birsa Munda's struggle for rights and self-respect, fighting the British with bows and arrows while living close to nature.

Mulla encouraged the Siddhi community to pursue higher education and excel across various fields rather than limiting themselves to a single area. The programme was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya and Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Dileesh Shashi.

Surya Puttasiddi spoke on Birsa Munda's contributions to preserving tribal art, culture, and traditions while opposing British oppression. A health check-up for the public was conducted, and the Siddhi women performed the traditional Damami dance.

HK Patil accuses EC of acting like a dictator

HUBBALLI

Minister HK Patil has accused the Election Commission of acting like a dictator, criticizing its functioning in recent years.

Speaking to the media, Patil referred to discussions at Kharge's residence regarding the Bihar election results and said the Election Commission's actions over the past three years have raised serious concerns.

He claimed that despite raising issues about alleged vote theft, the Commission has failed to act appropriately and has ignored instances of misconduct.

Patil further stated that the Election Commission shows no genuine intent to uncover the truth or communicate it transparently to the public.

Minister HK Patil accused the Election Commission of authoritarian behavior, alleging it ignored vote theft concerns and failed to act transparently over the past three years

"The Election Commission should operate within the principles of democracy, but its current approach resembles authoritarian behavior," he said.

He emphasized that the Commission's role is to ensure free and fair elections, but recent actions suggest an overreach that undermines democratic values. Patil warned that such conduct erodes public trust in electoral institutions and urged the authorities to reconsider their approach, highlighting the need for accountability and impartiality.

The minister's remarks come amid ongoing debates over the Election Commission's powers, decisions, and alleged bias in recent elections, sparking criticism from opposition leaders and political analysts alike. Patil's statement reflects growing dissatisfaction with what he describes as a lack of transparency and fairness in the country's electoral process.

By highlighting these concerns, Patil urged that the Commission must act responsibly, maintain neutrality, and uphold the democratic framework on which elections and public faith in governance depend.

Man arrested for growing cannabis amid sugarcane fields

VIJAYAPURA

Police have arrested a man for cultivating cannabis plants worth over ₹6.4 lakh amid sugarcane fields in Kotyal village, Tikota taluk. Authorities seized approximately 15.1 kg of fresh cannabis during a targeted operation. The accused, identified as Chandrashekhar Shivappa Patil, had planted the cannabis among his sugarcane crop. Based on verified intelligence, Excise Deputy Commissioner (Crime), along with Joint Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi Division and Excise Sub-Commissioner of Bijapur, supervised the operation. The raid was carried out under the leadership of Excise Inspector Mahadev Poojari and his team.

Officials confirmed that the accused was actively involved in illegal activities, and a case has been registered against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The operation highlights the vigilance of excise authorities in monitoring illegal drug cultivation, especially in areas where it is concealed among legal crops.

The raid involved multiple officers, including excise staff Malappa Poojari, Prakash Kumbar, Anil Kumbar, Yallappa Bhajantri, and personnel from the Home Guard unit, including Shivbasu and Siddu. The coordinated effort ensured the safe seizure of the contraband without damaging the surrounding sugarcane fields.

Authorities stressed that such operations are essential to curb drug-related crimes in rural areas, and they called on the public to report any suspicious cultivation. The successful seizure underscores the commitment of Bijapur excise officials to enforce the NDPS Act and dismantle illegal drug networks operating in the district.

KSRTC vigilance team recovers young woman's lost laptop

HAVERI

A young woman's laptop worth ₹1.5 lakh was safely recovered thanks to the swift and alert action of KSRTC vigilance personnel.

Shilpa Virupaksha Vasana, a resident of Gopanakoppa village in Bagalkot district, was traveling from Bengaluru to Hubballi on a Unit-1 KSRTC bus when she left her bag containing the laptop in the bus while visiting the washroom. On returning, she found the bus had already departed toward Shiggaon, leaving her anxious about the missing bag.

Alerted to the situation, KSRTC Vigilance Constable N.M. Benakanahalli, on duty at Haveri bus stand, immediately coordinated with security personnel at the next stop, Shiggavi. The team located the bags containing two laptops, a purse, and other personal belongings.

The vigilance and security staff ensured that the laptop bag, along with another bag containing clothes, was safely brought back to Haveri and returned to Shilpa in the presence of Haveri division officials.

Shilpa expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the KSRTC team for their prompt and dedicated efforts. The incident underscores the critical role of vigilant and responsible personnel in safeguarding passengers' property and maintaining public trust in the reliability and safety of KSRTC services.

The quick coordination between staff at multiple stops demonstrates KSRTC's commitment to passenger care and efficient handling of emergencies, reinforcing confidence among commuters.

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Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	J B Kavitha K, Kumara C, /**MHL00510016058**/ Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Katha No.152400401200420026, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.70/1 Measuring In Total 143.07 Sq Meter Including Measuring 88.26 Sq Meter House Property Situated At Mallapura Village Mudubasiddapura Gram Panchayat. Shikaripura Taluk And Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577214. East-Road, West-Road, South-House of Annappa Bhoovi, North-Share of Ramesh	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.440232/-
2	Radha G, Siddaraju S, /**MHL00340030199**/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 27/2A, P.I.D. No.152100300400500613, Situated At Kyathanahalli Grama, Kyathanahalli Gramapanchayat, Malavalli Block, Mandya (D), Karnataka - 571463. Admeasuring 132.67 Sq Mts. East-House of Mahesha, West-House of Venkatesha, South-Site of Doddamuthaiah, North-Road	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.405798/-
3	Shantamma D, Shivarudra M M, /**MHL00900030185**/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 201, P.I.D. No.152200103023900297, Situated At K.R. Pura Grama, Hosaholalu Gramapanchayat, Heggadadevanakote Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka - 571114 Admeasuring 223.97 Sq Mts. East-Property, West-Site of Somesha, South-Govt. Oni, North-Site of Saralamma	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.458023/-
4	Riyanabi Gorisab Mujavar, Gorisaab Allisaab Mujavar, Moulalii Gorisab Mujavar, Ramizabi Ahmedasab Bhagavathi, /**MLAP0026031947**/ Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.13/A, Property No.152700700800100148, Measuring East To West: 20.50 Mtr And North To South: 6.40Mtr, Total Measuring 131.20Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 115.20Sq Mtr, Situated At Yarebail Village Within Nandikatta Gram Panchayat, Tq: Mundagod & Dist: Uttar Kannada, Karnataka - 581349. East-Gram Panchayat Road, West-Gramthana, South-Property of Mohammedsharif, North-Property of Saidsab	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.516033/-
5	Yallappa Kenchappa Harijan, Kamalavva Harijana, Madhu Harijan, Shivappa Naduvinamani, /**NHL00260032891**/ Hubli	Residential Property Bearing Vpc No.565, Property No.151700200200120777, Measuring East To West: 12.192Mtr And North To South: 9.144Mtr, Total Measuring 111.48Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 58.53Sq Mtr, Situated At Naregal Village, Tq: Hanagal & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka - 581148. East-Property of Neelavva Fakkirappa Harijan, West-Panchayat Road, South- Property of Gurttemma Harijan, North-Panchayat Road	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.507981/-
6	Madan M, Mangalamma, Mahadevaswamy C, /**NHL00340037875**/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.10/141, P.I.D. No.150800300800121568, Situated At Maduvinahalli Village, Maduvinahalli Gramapanchayath, Kolleregala Taluk, Chamarajanagara District, Karnataka - 571440 Measuring East To West 11.5824 Meters And North To South 8.5344 Meters, Totally 98.85 Square Meters. East-House Belongs To Mahadevamma, West-Road, South-Vacant Site Belongs To Doddaveerashetty, North-House Belongs To Thandashetty	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.538902/-
7	Jafar K Dinnimani, Nurajanabi Jafarasab Dinnimani, Asif Dawalasab Dinnimani, /**NHL00260037667**/ Hubli	Residential Grantthana Property Bearing Vpc No. 247/1B, Property No.150100501800282309, Measuring East To West: 14.630400000000001Mtr And North To South: 3.60Mtr, Total Measuring 52.97Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 52.97Sq Mtr, Situated At Madhurkhandi Village, Tq: Jamakhandi & Dist: Bagalkote, Karnataka - 587119. East-Road, West-Road, South-Property of Lalsab Dinnimani, North-Road	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.531992/-
8	Somanath Bishtappa Arer, Bhishthappa Krishnappa Arer, Chennavva Bittappa Arer, /**NLAP0098038971**/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. No. 537, Rdpr P.I.D. No. 150400304300200598, Situated At Aralikatti Village, Aralikatti Gram Panchayat, Belagavi Block, Belagavi (D), Karnataka - 591109. Total Measuring: 74.13 Square Meters. East-Property of Veerabhadrappa Sattigeri, West-Property of Kallappa Kammar, South-Government Road., North-Property of Laxmi Kammar	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.477940/-
9	Ramappa Y, Laxmi R, Devappa C, /**NHL01170041721**/ Raichur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential House Property Bearing Panchayath No:144 Its E Property No: 152300501500100157 Totally Measuring 83.52 Sq Meter, Situated At Bappur Village Within Limits of Gram Panchayath Bappur Tq Maski, Dist Raichur, Karnataka - 584132. East-Road, West-Bheemanna Mulimani, South-House of Amdamma W/O Gyanappa, North-House of Bheemachari	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.416127/-
10	Rajalakshmi C, Cheluvarayi B, Preethi G C, /**MHL00910013468**/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No.151600302000420174, Gram Panchayath Property No. 750 Situated At Ganguru Village, Ganguru Gram Panchayath, Arakalgudu Taluk And Hassan District Measuring: East To West: 13.716000000000001 Meters And North To South: 7.62 Meters, Totally Measuring 104.52 Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area Measuring 104.51 Square Meters.near Temple Arkalgud Hassan Karnataka Pin: 573133 Po Gangur. East-Road., West-Own Property., South-House Property of Govindegovwda., North-Conservancy And House Property of Sheela.	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.473679/-
11	Puttaraju D, Nagarathna G, Chethan P, /**NHL00340015483**/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 68/1, Pid No.152100408400400808, Situated At Thaggahalli Village, Thaggahalli,Grama Panchayath, Mandya Taluk, Mandya District, Measuring East To West 6.096 Meters And North To South 9.144 Meters, Totally 55.74 Square Meters. Thaggahalli Gp, Mandya Block, Mandya District., Main Road Mandya Mandya Karnataka Pin: 571402 P.o Kottathi. East-Site Belongs To D. Ravikumar, West-House Belongs To Doddadevaiah, South-Road., North-House Belongs To D. Devaiah.	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.419149/-
12	Bharathamma, Rajappa, Venkatesha R, Manjunath R, /**MLAP0130043835**/ Chitradurga	Property Khata No: 54, E-Swathu No.151000401500200058, Measuring E-W: 10, Mtr, N-S: 12, Mtr, Total: 120.00 Sq Mtr, Situated At Dasayanahatti, Village, Madderu, Grama Panchayathi, Holalkere Tq, Chitradurga Dist., Karnataka - 577527. East-Property of Rudravva, West-Vacant Place, South-Road, North-Road	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.523663/-
13	Chikkali Bai, Veeresh Naik, /**MLAP0144042519**/ Shikaripura	Property No. 28/2, E-Property No. 152400403900600069, Measuring Total 167.22 Sq. Meter, Including 69.67 Sq. Meter Situated At Sadashivapura Village, Nelavagilu Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577427. East-Vacant Place of Chikkali Bai Government Land, West-Vacant Place of Shanthi Bai, South-Road, North- Government Land	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.505291/-
14	Tholasamma, Shakanayya, Kumara, /**MLAP0090044289**/ Vivekananda Circle	Property Bearing Pa No. 14, Te Vahi 17/17, P.I.D No.152200102625200016, Situated At Kenchanahalli Grama, N Beguru Gramapanchayat, Heggadadevakote Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka - 571116 Admeasuring 348.39 Sq Mts. East-Vacant Site, West-Government Road., South-Private Property, North-House of Malligamma	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.474934/-
15	Shivamallamma R, Javarabovi, /**MLAP0090043467**/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 50/43, P.I.D. No.152200103900300058, Situated At Gendegowdara Colony (Da) Grama, Padukotekaval Gramapanchayat, Heggadadevanakote Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka - 571114. Measuring: E-W: 14.9352 Meter & N-S: 9.144 Meter Admeasuring 136.57 Sq Mts. East-Road, West-House of Jayalakshamamma., South- House of Nagamma, North-House of Chikkalakshmamma	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.413278/-
16	Gangaiah H, Jayamma K, Sadashiva G, /**NHL00900016452**/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 75/3, P.I.D. No. 152200602411720058, Situated At Gorahalli Village, Chapparadahalli Grama Panchayath, Periyapatna Taluk And Mysuru District, Karnataka -571102 Measuring East To West 9.14 Meters And North To South 10.36 Meters, Totally Measuring 94.69 Square Meters. East-Road, West-Conservancy And House Belongs To Mahadeva., South-Conservancy And House Belongs To Siddamma., North-Conservancy And House Belongs To Appaji.	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.409734/-
17	Nagamma, Nagaraju, /**MHL00900044287**/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 131/129, P.I.D. No.152200102625200155, Situated At Kenchanahalli Grama, N Beguru Gramapanchayat, Heggadadevanakote Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka -571116. Measuring: E-W: 22.86 Meter & N-S: 15.24 Meter Admeasuring 348.39 Sq Mts. East-Property of Jayalakshmamma, West-Government Road., South -Government Road., North-House of Mahadevaiah	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.368483/-
18	Sandhya S Patil, Sudhir Raghunath Patil, Raghunath Maruti Patil, /**MHL00980024827**/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. No. 176, Rdpr P.I.D. No. 150400703700400261, Situated At Manturga Village, Manturga Gram Panchayat, Khanapur Block, Belagavi (D), Karnataka - 591302 Admeasuring: 93.25 Sq. Meters. East-Public Road, West-Property of Bhagirati Arun Patil, South-1. Raghunath Maruti Patil, 2. Chandrakant Maruti Patil, North-Gram Panchayat Road	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.369418/-
19	Shivamma M, Thippanna Y, Chandrappa T, /**MLAP0048002204**/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No 67/1, E Swathu No 151200200800200072, Measuring 25 X 33 Fts I.e 825 Sq Fts, Situated At Putagnaal Village, Kadajji Gram Panchayath, Davangere, Karnataka - 577002. East-Sewage And Road, West-House of Palappa, South-Sewage And Road, North-Conservancy	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.349492/-
20	Meghana B N, Ravi T P, /**MLAP0034005050**/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Hariharapura Gramapanchayathi Property Assessment No. 110 And As Per Form No. 11 B Unique No. 152100101000300150 Situated At Ternahalli Village, Krishnarajapete Taluk,Mandya, Karnataka - 571605 Measuring East To West 13.716 Meters & North To South 9.144 Meters. East-Road, West-Galli And House of Nagamma, South-Galli And House of Yashodamma, North-Galli And House of Manjamma	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.312920/-
21	Annapurna Vishvanath Killikettar, Vishvanath Arjun Killikettar, Mahantesh Vishvanath Killikettar, /**MHL00980023488**/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. No.158, RDPR P.I.D. No.150400303100320256, Situated At Shaganamatti Village, Mastamaradi Gram Panchayat, Belagavi Block, Belagavi (D). Measuring: East To West: 15.24 Meter And North To South: 5.48 Meter. Admeasuring: 83.63 Sq. Meters. [15.24 X 5.48 = 83.63] (Hereinafter Referred To As "The Said House"). Within The Limits of Gram Panchayath Mastamaradi, Tal:& Dist: Belagavi, Within The Limits of Jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar Belagavi. Boundaries In the Land And Building: As Per Pid Extract. Sy. No 158 P.I.D. No. 150400303100320256 At/P Shaganamatti Tq/ Dist/ Belgaum, Maruti Galli Belgaum, Belgaum Karnataka Pin: 590003 P.O. Belgaum Fort. East-Road, West-Property of Vishwanath Killiketar, South-Property of Vishwanath Killiketar, North-Property of Bharati Killiketar	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.303289/-
22	Mustaqahmad Maktumsab Tadakod, Maktumsab Kasimsab Tadakod, Shamasha Maktumsab Tadkod, /**NHL00980035499**/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of Residential Property Bearing Gp No. 33, Swattin No. 150400201800200374, Total Measuring 70.59, Towards East-West: 5.79 And Towards North-South: 12.192 Situated At Dematti, Tal: Kittur & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka - 591115. East-By Property No. 36, West-By Property No. 38, South-Road, North-By Property No. 32	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.327100/-
23	Vinodamma, Somashekharappa S E, Manjunatha S, Hemantha S, /**MHL00480043019**/ Davangare	E Swathu No. 151000201900620186, Property No. 290/1, Measuring 4.572 × 10.972 Meter = 50.16 Sq.mtr, Iyyanahalli Kurubarahatty Grama, Iyyanahalli Grama Panchayath, Chitradurga, Chitradurga. Karnataka, Pincode-577502. East-House of Rudramma, West-House of Parvathamma, South-Road, North-Road	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.212785/-
24	Indramma S, Lohitha S, Megharaja S, /**MHL00510008620**/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Property No. 15, E-Property No. 152400403300300047, Measuring East-West 30.48 X North-South 12.4968 Meter, Total 380.90 Sq. Meter, Includingi 05.91 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Shiddihalli Village, Thogarsi Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District,Karnataka - 577433. East-Road, West-Survey Number, South-Property of Jayamma W/O Ramesha, North-Property of Rampappa S/O Hanumanthappa	13-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.282159/-
25	Bhimashi Bhajantri, Kasturi Bhimashi Bhajanthri, Maruti Bhjantri, /**NLAP0098043211**/ Belgaum	P.I.D. No: 150400503500320913 Sy. No. 991/A , Admeasuring 74.22 Sq.mtrs, / P Mamadapur Tq/Gokak Dist/ Belgaum, Near Bus Stop, Gokak, P.O. Mamadapur, Belgaum, Karnataka, Pin: 591233. East-Own Property Bearing No. 991, West-Property of Nooli Channayya Yuvaka Sangh, South-Property of Janardhana Bhajantri, North-Road	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.543482/-
26	Kavitha, Hanumanthappa, Sharath H C, Rajappa, /**MHL00260037251**/ Hubli	P.I.D. No: 152400603900220046 G, P, No: 44, Measuring 227.37 Sq.mtrs, In Hurali Gram Panchayath At: Huralikoppa Tq: Soraba Dt: Shivamogga, Near Main Road, Sorab, P.O. Huruli, Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin: 577413. East-House of Fakkirappa, West-Property of Ratnamma Sali, South-House of Mahadevappa, North-Panchayat Road	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.536082/-
27	Basavaraj B Navi, Rupa Basavaraj Navi, Prakash Navi, /**NHL01370049849**/ Vijayapura	New Property No. 5-562-960 Ward No: 13, Old Property No: 420,Measuring 600 Sq.ft Near Revappana Maddi, Indi, Tq. Indi, Dist. Vijayapur,Karnataka - 586209. East-Plot No. 100, West-Ploy No. 102, South-Road, North-Road	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.533580/-
28	Muthali Bhovi, Bukkani B, Nagaraju M, /**NHL00900028345**/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Peace & Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 335/32=, P.I.D. No.150800302200800314, Ramapura Gramapanchayat, Hanuru Block, Chamarajanagara (Bd):Measuring 156.08 Sq Mts, Karnataka- 571444. East-House of Poojari, West-Sandidari, South-Road, North-Vacant Site	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.692291/-
29	Praveena Kumara P, Gangamma P, N Prashanth, /**NHL00510008060**/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/ A Property No. 473, Sl No. 603, Measuring 15 X 80 Feet, Situated At Hittala Village, Hittala Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka-577214. East-Village Panchayath Road, West-Agala, South-Property of A. K. Shekarappa, North-Canal	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.643002/-
30	Vishvas Rayappa Kamble, Ashwini Vishwas Kamble, Raju Gadgyappa Kamble, /**NHL00980044949**/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. M. No. 438/2, Total Measuring 1152 Sq Fts, Situated At Naganur, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Naganur, Tal: Gadhinglaj, Dist: Kolhapur, Maharashtra - 416551. East-By Property of Shri. Ashok Kamble, West-By Property of Shri. Vijay Kamble, South-By Property of Shri. Rayappa Kamble, North-Road	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.533287/-
31	Manjula Shivanand Salahalli, Shivanand Giriyappa Salahalli, Shantavva Giriyappa Salahalli, /**MHL00980023012**/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. No.215, Rdpr Pid No.150400902300100238, Situated At Revadikoppa Village, Sureban Gram Panchayat, Ramdurga Block, Belagavi (D), Karnataka - 591127 Admeasuring: 80.33 Sq.meters. East-Road, West-Property of Giriyappa Ningappa Salahalli, South-Bangi Road, North-Property of Yallavva Kadar	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.511976/-
32	Bhagya R, Rakesh Y R, Ramesha M, /**MHL00340013451**/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 761, P.I.D. No. 151800208300200407, Situated At Gummanakolli Grama, Mullusoge Gramapanchayat, Somavarapete Block, Kodagu (D), Karnataka - 571234 Admeasuring: 111.48 Sq Mts. East-Road, West-House of Susheela, South-Vacant Site, North-House of Nagaraju	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.505242/-
33	Thimmesha D, Monika T, Duggamma D, /**NHL00510029059**/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 12, E-Property No. 152400502700200012, Measuring Total 111.52 Sq. Meter, Including 60.50 Sq. Meter, House, Situated At Basavapura Village, Agasavalli Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District,Karnataka - 577202. East-Property of Hussain Sab, West-Road, South-Property of Dodda Thimma Bovi, North-Property of Sanna Thimma Bovi	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.507725/-
34	Girijamma Hosurappa, Hosurappa Huligappa, /**MLAP0144036349**/ Shikaripura	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 42, Property No. 152400602800200233, E-Property No. 152400602800200233, Measuring Total 111.48 Sq. Meter, Including 74.32 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Andige Village, Andige Village Panchayath, Soraba Taluk And Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577429. East-Government Property, West-House of Nagappa, South-Government Property, North-Road	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.463082/-
35	Yallamma, Shivappa, Geetha, /**MLAP0117039917**/ Raichur	Panchayath No 296 P.I.D. 152300301800120043, Totally Measuring 111.48 Sq.meter, Village: K Gudadinni Gp: K Gudadinni Tq: Sirwar Dist: Raichur, Near Main Road, Manvi, P.O. Gudadinni, Raichur, Karnataka, Pin: 584123. East-House of Basavaraj S/O Lachammanna, West-Road, South-Road, North-Road	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.321806/-
36	Mahabasha C, Dil Shad B, Mohammed Rafiq, /**NLAP0117035995**/ Raichur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential House Property Bearing Panchayath No: 138/1 Its E Property Not 150500702600700772 Measu Ng Ewi 4.572 Meter, Ns: 12.192 Meter, Totally Measudng 55.74 Sq Meter, In Which The Plinth Area Measu Ng 40.41 Sq Meter, Situated At Kududarahalu Village Within Limits of Gram Panchayath Kududarahalu, Tq Siruguppa Dist Bellary, Within The Limits of Judsdiction of Sub-Registrar Siruguppa, Near Maih Road 5 Ruguppa Bellary Karnataka Pin: 533121 Po Kududarahalu East-House of Malaniya, West-House of Lakshmi, South-Drainage And Road, North-House of Govindanuna	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.309276/-
37	Asha Rani N, Chamaraju Y M, /**MLAP0090022663**/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.320, P.I.D. No.150800102100420178, Situated At Yalakkuru Village, Kuderu Gramapanchayath, Chamarajanagara Taluk, Chamarajanagara District, Measuring East To West 9.144 Meters And North To South 12.192 Meters, Total Measuring 111.48 Meters.main Road Chamarajanagar Mysore Karnataka Pin:571316 P.O. Kuderu East-House Belongs To M. Ramaswamy., West-House Belongs To Chandraiah., South-Road., North-House Belongs To Mahadevaiah.	14-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.305532/-
38	Sanju D J, Jayarama R, Vijaya S, /**NHL00910007720**/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No.151600502000700055, Gram Panchayath Property No. 47, Survey No. 38/11 Situated At Dyavenahalli Village, Bagooru Gram Panchayath, Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District, Totally Measuring 83.52 Square Meters, Karnataka-573116. East-Property Belongs To Sri. Harish., West-Property Of Sri. Chandregowda., South-Property Belongs To Sri. Muddegowda., North-Road	15-10-2025	18-10-2025 & Rs.900769/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act. Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date: 17th November 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA

Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYED ULPHATHA UNNISA (old name), a resident of 4TH CROSS, S S TEMPLE ROAD, OPP K G N HOTEL, P H COLONY, TUMKUR, KARNATAKA – 572101, INDIA, have changed my name to SAYEEDA ULFATHUNNISA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 15-11-2025, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I PRASANNA B R S/O RAMANAYAKA, R/O Dasthikola Bilikere, Hunsur, Mysore, Karnataka - 571103, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRASHANTH RAM.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DINESH K R S/O Late Rajashekharappa K M about 58 years, residing at Karagunda, Hasan, Karnataka – 573122, have changed my name from DINESHA K R to DINESH K R for all practical/documentation purposes, vide affidavit dated 15-11-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ramachandrappa. C., Bangalore, Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME

I GUNDAREDDY alias GOTURE GUNDAREDDY alias GUNDAREDDY RAJREDDY GOTURES S/O RAJREDDY GOTURE, R/O 2/186, Basanthpur, Molkhera, Bidar, Karnataka - 585330, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HEMARREDDY M GOTHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, V MITESH KUMAR S/O B VIJAY RAJ, R/O Door No 44 Ward No 23, New Vijaya Nagar Colony 1st Cross, Bellary, Bellary Cantonment, Ballari, Karnataka-583104, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MITESH BAFNA in my minor son namely TIYANSH MITESH BAFNA, aged 4 years in his birth certificate No. B-2021: 27-90014-003672. The actual name of mine is V MITESH KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I THODLAPPARA RATHNAVVA W/O URUMUNDALA NAGARAJA, R/O # 8-37, Near Maramma Temple, Dasamapura, Hagaribommanahalli, Ballari, Karnataka - 583212, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as URUMUNDALA RATHNAMMA.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

Bangalore Rural District, Doddaballapur Taluk, Kasaba Hobli, Veerapur Post, Varadanahalli Village. Mr. Shashikumar, S/o Sri. Ashwathappa, aged about 34 years. Certifying that, at the above address I will be residing. Dated in my name: 16.12.2019 my father, Sri. Ashwathappa S/o Late Thammayya is a Doddaballapura Sub-Registrar office Book-1, DBP-1-11130/2019-20 at the Registrar's Office CD No.DBPD709 in the The deed of gift and the said the original copy of the gift Date:08.11.2025 Household Goods shifted to another house. It has been lost. Therefore, the said certificate Certified Doddaballapur Taluk, Rural To file a complaint at the police station and Doddaballapura Submit to the Sub-Registrar's office. To obtain a second copy of the above donation letter I hereby certify that the said certificate is dated:
Prakash C, Notary and Advocate, on 12.11.2025 I certify in the presence of Doddaballapura.

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675, Fax : 08472 / 260776 E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/VS/ /2025-26 Date: 15.11.2025.

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: /2025-26

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 2 tenders as per KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for Service Tender bid documents under corporation fund for 7 Days Short Term Tender.

The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
2) Estimate Sanction cost: amount **Rs. 57,96,000.00,** 3) EMD Value: Rs. 1,10,400.00, 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **24.11.2025 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **25.11.2025 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **26.11.2025 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer/Deputy commissioner (Devt), Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/**
Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advoised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/722/KSMC&A/2025-26

QUICK READ

3 Maoists neutralised in Chhattisgarh's Sukma

Raipur

Three Maoists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the dense Karigundam forests of Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Sunday. Weapons were recovered from the site, marking another blow to the Maoist insurgency in the Bastar region. The operation started in the Chintagufa police station area, where intermittent firing continued amid the rugged terrain. Superintendent of Police (SP) Kiran Chavan said that intelligence inputs had alerted authorities to the Maoists' presence in the mountainous zones. The Maoists have been identified as Madvi Deva – Jan militia Commander and Konta Area Committee Member, Podium Gangi, Konta Area Committee Commander and Sodi Gangi.

V. Srinivas appointed new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan

Jaipur

Senior IAS officer V. Srinivas has officially been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, with the state government issuing fresh appointment orders on Sunday. His return to the state cadre comes immediately after the Central government relieved him from his deputation, clearing the administrative pathway for him to assume the top bureaucratic post. Srinivas, a 1989 batch IAS officer, is one of the seniormost officers in the Rajasthan cadre and was widely expected to be chosen for the role.

ECI speeds up West Bengal's voter digitisation

Kolkata

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has set a target for completing the digitisation process of the voters' details mentioned in the enumeration forms in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal by November end. Already, the process of digitisation of the enumeration forms collected by booth-level officers had started, and digitisation had already been completed for around 50 lakh enumeration forms. The pace of digitisation work will increase from Sunday and is expected to be completed by the month's end as directed by the commission, sources in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, said.

Puri calls shipbuilding partnership a key 'Make in India' opportunity

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri says India's youth and South Korea's technology can drive major shipbuilding and energy cooperation.

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday underscored the immense potential of strategic collaboration between India and South Korea, particularly in shipbuilding, energy transport, and technological innovation. Speaking during his visit to Seoul, Puri described India's youthful workforce and South Korea's advanced industrial capabilities as a win-win combination that aligns with India's long-term development goals.

During the visit, Puri met young Indian professionals and students pursuing career opportunities in South Korea, praising their enthusiasm and commitment to contributing to India's growth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. They spoke passionately about their dreams and fervour to serve India's growth and development, he wrote on X.

Puri also engaged with senior executives of major South Korean companies to explore new avenues of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the shipbuilding sector. He emphasized that Korean firms possess cutting-edge expertise and manufacturing capacity, while India offers high-demand markets, skilled labor, and policy support — making it an ideal partnership model under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Visited the sprawling shipbuilding facility of Hanwha Ocean in Geoje, Puri said, highlighting India's strong economic growth and massive investment potential. He noted that Indian energy public sector units spend USD 5–8 billion annually on freight and currently require at least 59 vessels, creating a substantial opportunity for companies like Hanwha to collaborate and manufacture ships in India.

Puri stressed that the collaboration could position India as a global shipping hub. We will not only recover the costs of our vessels in 5 years, but will also establish India as a global maritime shipping hub, he said.

BJP Chief slams Stalin, says 20,000 jobs slipped to AP

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu BJP leader alleges DMK government's administrative failures drove away major Korean investment and thousands of jobs.

Tamil Nadu BJP president Nainar Nagenthran on Sunday launched a fierce attack on Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, accusing the ruling DMK government of failing to retain critical industrial investments and undermining the state's economic prospects. His comments came after South Korean footwear maker Hwasung reportedly shifted its proposed ₹1,720-crore manufacturing project from Tamil Nadu to Andhra Pradesh.

According to Nagenthran, the loss is not merely financial — it represents nearly 20,000 direct job opportunities for Tamil Nadu's youth. He questioned whether the Chief Minister was even aware that the investment, once announced with much fanfare, had moved elsewhere without resistance.

Calling the development a clear indicator of inefficiency and indifference, the BJP leader said the DMK has failed to provide confidence to investors. Stalin keeps saying he will never allow Tamil Nadu to bow its head. Yet under this ineffective government, young people have now lost 20,000 job opportunities, he said.

Nagenthran compared the state's frequent investment claims to the fable of The Boy Who Cried Wolf, accusing the government of making loud announcements only for investors to quietly choose other states later. This has become a continuous, predictable pattern, he added.

He also criticized Stalin's frequent foreign trips aimed at attracting global investors, alleging that they have yielded no meaningful results. The Chief Minister goes abroad claiming he is bringing investments, only to return empty-handed. Even investments that arrive without effort are allowed to slip away due to administrative apathy, he charged.

Calling the latest development a serious setback for Tamil Nadu's industry, Nagenthran said the DMK government's policies were damaging the state's economic future.

Rabri Devi's brother calls for introspection in RJD after Bihar polls

PATNA

Sadhu Yadav, brother of former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, on Sunday criticised the alleged treatment meted out to RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's daughter, Rohini Acharya, saying that such behaviour towards a daughter of the family should never have occurred. Rohini Acharya on Sunday levelled serious allegations of humiliation and physical intimidation, claiming she was compelled to leave her crying parents and sisters behind.

Her statements have triggered fresh speculation about deepening discord within the Yadav family, already under pressure after the RJD's poor performance in the Bihar Assembly Election 2025.

Sadhu Yadav said, Rabri Devi is my sister and I too have endured many things, but I have never spoken a single word against my own sister. What is being heard, what people are saying, is wrong. She (Rohini Acharya) is my niece, a daughter of our family and a daughter of Bihar. If anyone has treated her in such a manner, it should never have happened; it is wrong.

He added that while he cannot point fingers at anyone specifically, the situation calls for thoughtful reflection and deliberation.

Subhash Yadav, another brother of Rabri Devi, speaking to IANS, also condemned the incident.

A special Lok Adalat initiative in Telangana successfully resolved over 74,000 cases through coordinated legal and police efforts.

T'gana Special Lok Adalat settles over 74K cases across the State

HYDERABAD

In a major push toward reducing legal pendency and promoting amicable settlements, the High Court of Telangana and the Telangana State Legal Services Authority successfully settled 74,782 cases during a special Lok Adalat held across the state. The initiative, which began on October 27, concluded, significantly easing the burden on courts and offering relief to thousands of citizens.

The Telangana Police identified eligible cases and served notices to concerned parties, ensuring maximum participation. Additional Director General of Police, CID, Charu Sinha, highlighted the magnitude of the achievement, noting that the initiative aimed at resolving compoundable cases through mutual agreement and compounding. Among the settled matters were 14,642 FIR cases, 154 disaster management cases, 23,400 e-petty cases, 31,189 Motor Vehicles Act violations, and 5,397 cybercrime cases.

ADGP Sinha praised the efforts of police units across Telangana, noting that all districts performed commendably in disposing of pending cases. The top five contributors were Hyderabad with 11,226 settled cases, followed by Ramagundam (8,108), Nalgonda (6,410), Khammam (6,090), and Warangal (5,064).

The special Lok Adalat has been widely recognized as a citizen-friendly initiative that saves time, reduces court visits, cuts down legal expenses, and offers peace of mind to both parties involved. Authorities have also worked to create public awareness about the benefits of this platform, encouraging more people to opt for speedy justice.

The ADGP credited the success to effective coordination between the Telangana State Legal Services Authority (TSLSA), District Legal Services Authorities (DSLSAs), judges, magistrates, Commissioners and Superintendents of Police, and the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB). Officials noted that the initiative has significantly reduced the volume of under-investigation and pending trial compoundable cases across the state.

VP hails CAG as guardian of Bharat's 'moral wealth'

NEW DELHI

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Sunday emphasised the importance of accountability, transparency, and integrity for upholding the moral wealth of Bharat, lauding the contributions of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

Speaking at the Audit Diwas Celebrations 2025 as the Chief Guest, the Vice-President appreciated the pivotal role of the CAG, calling the institution the guardian of the public purse.

He highlighted that by upholding fairness and truth in auditing, the CAG stands as a pillar of accountability, transparency, and integrity - the moral wealth of Bharat.

Radhakrishnan also commended the CAG of India for notifying One Nation, One Set of Object Heads of Expenditure for the Union government and all State Governments, a reform that will significantly enhance transparency and comparability of government expenditure.

The Vice President noted that CAG's global reputation has grown through its role as External Auditor for international organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and several others.

He highlighted that the CAG is currently chairing the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) - a testimony to Bharat's journey from being a follower to emerging as a global leader.

The Vice President said, As Bharat progresses towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, the CAG will remain a key partner in ensuring fiscal discipline and transparency for effective governance. He urged officers to continuously upgrade their skills and auditing capabilities to enhance transparency in public spending and ensure that people's money is used for public welfare.

At a separate media awards event in Delhi, the Vice President honoured Suresh Gopi, Union Minister of State for Tourism and Petroleum and Natural Gas.

5 friends killed as SUV rams into tractor-trolley

GWALIOR

Five young men, all friends, were killed in a road accident on the Gwalior-Jhansi Highway in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, officials said here. The horrific collision occurred at around 6.00 a.m. near Malwa College when a speeding Fortuner car smashed into a sand-laden tractor-trolley, leaving no survivors. All were residents of Gwalior.

According to police, the Fortuner (sports utility vehicle) was travelling from Jhansi towards Gwalior when the tragedy occurred. As the vehicle approached Malwa College, a tractor-trolley emerged from a turn onto the highway.

The car, reportedly moving at high speed, lost control, resulting in a catastrophic impact.

DSP Nagendra Singh Sikarwar (Crime) said, The collision was so severe that half of the Fortuner was crushed under the trolley, trapping and killing all five occupants instantly.

The mangled wreckage underscored the intensity of the crash. Even the airbags of the car burst with the impact, he said.

When asked if the vehicle was being driven rashly, the senior police official said, A vehicle like the Fortuner cannot be easily crashed to an unrecognisable degree; it indicates it was being driven at more than 120 km per hour. Even the airbags could not help. Sadly, all the occupants were young and under 25 years of age. Some of them were the sole sons of their fathers.

Police and emergency services rushed to the scene upon receiving calls. With assistance from local villagers, authorities used cutting tools to extricate the bodies from the intertwined wreckage of the car and tractor-trolley.

The operation was gruelling, as the car's frame was almost unrecognisable. The bodies were later sent for post-mortem examination, and an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the precise circumstances of the accident.

Suvendu Adhikari claims TMC MLA running extortion racket

KOLKATA

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Sunday re-leased an audio clip which he claimed proves that Trinamool Congress legislator Jiban Krishna Saha—currently in jail in connection with the multi-crore cash-for-school-job case—was continu-ing to collect money from behind bars by promising school jobs. Addressing the media in Nandi-gram, Adhikari played the clip on his mobile phone and alleged that the voice demanding money was that of Saha, who has been in judicial custody since his arrest earlier this year by the

According to Adhikari, the conversation in the audio occurred recently while Saha was still in jail. However, could not independently verify the authenticity of the clip.

In the recording, one person—whom Adhikari identifies as Saha—is heard asking another individual to immedi-ately send ₹50,000. The other voice responds that the money is being sent and that a total of ₹15.50 lakh has already been paid.

Adhikari later posted on X, sharply criticising the Trinamool Congress and calling Saha a "jailbird MLA." He alleged that Saha was running an extortion racket from jail and fast-tracking fake teacher recruitments, accusing the ruling party of turning prisons into "TMC offices." He ques-tioned whether this reflected the party's claims of honesty, arguing that honest citizens were suf-fering while corruption continued unchecked.

IBOMMA PIRACY ARREST

Immadhi Ravi remanded to 14-day judicial custody

HYDERABAD

In a major breakthrough against digital piracy, Hyderabad police have arrested alleged piracy mastermind Immadhi Ravi, who was believed to be operating a large-scale illegal film distribution network from the Caribbean islands. Ravi, notorious for throwing an open challenge to Indian law enforcement, was sent to 14 days of judicial custody after being produced before a magistrate. He has now been lodged at the Chanchalguda Central Prison.

Ravi is accused of running piracy platforms iBomma and Bappam, which were infamous for distributing pirated Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and other regional films, along with content from major OTT platforms. The racket reportedly caused massive financial losses to filmmakers and production houses across the country.

According to police, Ravi fled India on October 1, shortly after a case was filed against him. He reportedly stayed in Amsterdam on October 3, constantly switching IP addresses and using encrypted networks to evade tracking. However, he returned to Hyderabad recently, convinced that authorities would not be able to locate him.

Acting on mobile signal intelligence, the police tracked him to a residence in Kukatpally, where he was detained late Friday night. During the raid, investigators seized hundreds of hard disks, believed to contain pirated movies and distribution data.

The Cybercrime police have since blocked access to iBomma and Bappam using login credentials obtained during interrogation. A petition will be filed in the Nampally Court on Monday seeking seven days of police custody for further questioning.

Officials revealed that Ravi's network depended on VPNs, encrypted Telegram groups, overseas servers and cryptocurrency payments, making it one of the most sophisticated piracy systems in India. The racket reportedly used online gaming and betting platforms for advertising pirated content in exchange for funding.

QUICK READ

Delhi CM attends BJP strategy meeting for MCD by-elections

New Delhi

The Delhi BJP on Sunday held an organisational meeting to devise a winning strategy for the by-elections on 12 seats of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) scheduled on November 30. Chaired by National Organisational General Secretary B.L. Santosh, the meeting saw top city leaders being assigned key responsibilities for ensuring a clean sweep in the by-elections so as to bolster the BJP's strength in the civic House. As many as 53 candidates are in the fray for the 12 seats for which the by-elections will be held on November 30. The counting of votes will be held on December 3.

SIT to conduct scientific examination at Sabarimala

Thiruvananthapuram

In a crucial step in the probe into the alleged disappearance of gold from the Sabarimala temple, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) reached the hill shrine to prepare for a comprehensive scientific examination scheduled for Monday afternoon. Police officials said the inspection commenced after 1 p.m. on Sunday, following the mandatory Deva Anujna (divine permission) rituals. The SIT team, led by DySP S. Sasidharan, the investigation officer, arrived at Pampa on Sunday morning and later proceeded to Sannidhanam, where they will remain stationed until the procedure is completed.

Chatterjee seeks public opinion on his political leadership

Kolkata

After getting released from judicial custody in connection with the cash-for-job case, former West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee has installed a box outside his party office in Kolkata to seek public opinions on his political leadership. Chatterjee, who is also the former general secretary of Trinamool Congress, is trying to test the waters with this move before once again positioning himself as the party leader. The move assumes significance as the Trinamool Congress, which had suspended Chatterjee from the party after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in 2022 in connection with the School Service Commission recruitment corruption case.

Punjab police bust Pak-linked arms and drug network, 5 arrested

Punjab Police arrested five men, seizing pistols and heroin, dismantling a Pakistan-linked weapons and narcotics smuggling network.

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Police have successfully dismantled a cross-border arms and drug trafficking network with alleged links to Pakistan, arresting five individuals and recovering a cache of sophisticated weapons and heroin. Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav announced the breakthrough on Sunday, describing it as a significant step toward curbing the inflow of illegal weapons and narcotics into the state.

Those arrested have been identified as Akash Masih and Prince, along with Karanbir Singh alias Karan, Sukhwinder Singh, and Gurbhej Singh alias Bheja. While four of them are from Amritsar (Rural), Gurbhej Singh hails from Tarn Taran. All the accused are residents of villages near the India-Pakistan border and are believed to have been receiving illegal consignments under the instructions of Pakistan-based handlers.

Police recovered six weapons from the accused — including five .30 bore pistols and a 9mm Glock — along with 1.01 kg of heroin. According to DGP Yadav, preliminary investigations indicate that the group was in direct communication with handlers across the border through encrypted social media platforms. Their role involved collecting weapons and drugs before distributing them further within Punjab.

Commissioner of Police (Amritsar) Gurpreet Singh Bhullar shared details of the operation, explaining that the first two arrests were made at a checkpoint near Chheharta. The subsequent arrests followed technical surveillance and interrogation, leading to the recovery of additional weapons and heroin.

Further investigations aim to uncover the full extent of the network, including backward and forward linkages, suppliers, and receivers. Two FIRs have been registered — one under the Arms Act at Chheharta police station and another under the Arms and NDPS Acts at the Cantonment police station.

Police officials said the crackdown reflects intensified efforts to neutralize cross-border criminal networks threatening regional security.

97.5% enumeration forms distributed in SIR Phase II

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission announced rapid progress in voter enumeration, nearing full distribution of electoral forms across participating regions.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday released its 3:00 PM Daily Bulletin for November 16, confirming near-complete progress in Phase II of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The revision exercise, being carried out across 12 States and Union Territories, has reported 100 per cent printing of Enumeration Forms (EFs) and over 97.5 per cent distribution so far.

The ongoing SIR Phase II runs from November 4 to December 4, 2025, and involves door-to-door verification of voter details by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) along with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by recognised political parties. The process aims to update and authenticate voter records ahead of several upcoming elections.

The ECI noted that out of 50.99 crore electors covered under this phase, 50.97 crore EFs—amounting to 99.95 per cent—have been printed. Of these, 49.73 crore forms, or 97.52 per cent, have already been distributed, showcasing effective field mobilisation and administrative coordination.

Several States and Union Territories have demonstrated exemplary performance. Goa and Lakshadweep achieved 100 per cent distribution, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh reported near-complete coverage. Uttar Pradesh alone distributed 15.7 crore forms, reflecting a 97.64 per cent success rate, while Madhya Pradesh recorded 99.45 per cent distribution of 5.74 crore EFs.

However, a few regions lag slightly behind. Kerala reported 93.72 per cent distribution, Tamil Nadu 93.67 per cent, and Puducherry 94.10 per cent, prompting the Commission to call for renewed efforts.

The ECI also urged recognised political parties to deploy additional Booth Level Agents, particularly in densely populated constituencies, to enhance transparency during household verification. The bulletin highlighted the deployment of 5.33 lakh BLOs and 10.41 lakh BLAs as evidence of the Commission's commitment to ensuring accurate and inclusive electoral rolls.

With just under three weeks remaining in the enumeration period, the ECI is expected to intensify efforts in lower-performing areas to achieve comprehensive coverage before the deadline.

TN extends paddy crop insurance deadline to Nov 30

CHENNAI

In a major relief for paddy farmers across Tamil Nadu, the State government on Sunday announced that the deadline for enrolment under the Samba, Thaladi and Pishanam Paddy Crop Insurance Scheme has been extended to November 30.

The decision follows approval from the Union government and comes at a time when continuous rain, a delayed Kuruvai harvest, and the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls have slowed down insurance applications in several districts.

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam said the extension was crucial to ensure that no farmer was excluded due to administrative or weather-related disruptions.

He noted that samba cultivation is progressing strongly this season, with 26.25 lakh acres already under cultivation across Tamil Nadu.

According to the Minister, 6.27 lakh farmers have so far insured 15 lakh acres, achieving 57 per cent coverage. This marks a significant improvement compared to the corresponding period last year, when only around 10 lakh acres were insured.

Officials attribute the increase to robust field-level awareness, timely release of water for irrigation, and improved accessibility of enrollment centres.

The insurance deadline was originally fixed as November 15 for farmers across 27 districts including Thanjavur.

Former Congress leader Shakeel Ahmad challenges Opposition's Bihar election performance and raises doubts over alleged voter deletions.

Ex-Cong leader Shakeel Ahmad questions voter deletion claims

NEW DELHI

Former Congress leader Shakeel Ahmad, who resigned from the party earlier this week, has sharply criticised the Opposition's strategy and performance in the recently concluded Bihar Assembly election. Ahmad questioned both the seat distribution practices and claims surrounding mass voter deletions that allegedly impacted the results.

Ahmad specifically challenged the assertion that 6.5 million voters were removed from the state's electoral rolls. Calling the allegations unsubstantiated, he said there was no visible public reaction that would normally accompany such a large-scale deletion. If such a massive deletion had happened, even a small section of those affected should have protested, he said. At least 65 people, or even 5,000, could have come forward. But nothing of that sort was seen.

He further noted that no major political party, including the Left, RJD, or Congress, mobilised public demonstrations or legal action over the issue. If votes of innocent people were really deleted, political parties should have taken to the streets, he added.

Reflecting on the Bihar results, Ahmad described the performance of the Opposition alliance as unexpected and shocking. Although no longer affiliated with the Congress, he acknowledged that the outcome surprised many within the alliance. Nobody expected such a poor performance from our side, he said.

Giving historical context, Ahmad explained that Bihar's electoral landscape has long been shaped by fixed social and sectional voting patterns dating back to 1995. At that time, even when we were not aligned with Lalu Yadav, 85 per cent of certain sections supported him. Over the years, these segments fragmented, leaving only two sections with our alliance today, he remarked.

Ahmad's comments reflect growing introspection within Opposition ranks following their electoral setback, even as questions linger about strategy, leadership, and ground-level engagement.

OPCC to act against anti-party activities

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Bhakta Charan Das on Sunday stated that the Congress will introspect to identify the causes of the defeat and will also take action against those involved in anti-party activities during the recently concluded Nuapada bypolls.

Speaking to media persons, Das said that there is a need for introspection in the party to find out the failures in the by-election and the party's members who were involved in anti-party activities during the polls. The OPCC president clarified that stringent action will be taken against all those found engaged in anti-party activities during the polls. He further claimed that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spent huge money and engaged several ministers and leaders from Odisha and the neighbouring Chhattisgarh, including the Chief Ministers of both states, to win the Nuapada bypolls.

Despite the massive misuse of power and large-scale distribution of money, the people of Nuapada gave Congress over 40,000 votes, and we express our gratitude to them for this. We are fully satisfied that we have achieved something that we never did in the past, the OPCC president asserted.

Meanwhile, Senior BJP leader and the law minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, while taking a dig at the OPCC president, said, Those who face defeat usually present several alibis to hide their faults and weaknesses. Instead of getting engaged in tall talks, it would be better for both BJD and Congress to accept that they had been rejected by the people. It is pertinent here to mention that BJP candidate Jay Dholakia, who secured a total of 1,23,869 votes, defeated Congress candidate Ghasiram Majhi by a margin of 83,748 votes.

Six arrested for defrauding elderly woman of ₹49 lakh

NEW DELHI

In a major breakthrough against organised cyber-enabled financial crime, the Cyber Cell of the Delhi Crime Branch has busted a multi-layered syndicate involved in the notorious Digital Arrest scam, police officials announced on Sunday. Six individuals, including mule account operators, were arrested for allegedly duping a 71-year-old woman of ₹49 lakh after holding her under digital confinement for nearly 24 hours.

The case came to light following an FIR filed by the elderly victim, who was psychologically coerced into transferring her life savings. The accused posed as law enforcement officials and threatened her with fabricated legal charges, using fear and intimidation to force repeated fund transfers into bank accounts controlled by the syndicate.

According to Delhi Police, the scam relied on a combination of intimidation, impersonation, and technical deception—hallmarks of the Digital Arrest modus operandi. The victim was threatened with legal action and coerced into transferring ₹49 lakh to various bank accounts. Multi-layered bank accounts were used to transfer money and later withdraw it from ATMs, the police statement said.

The breakthrough came after multiple complaints were submitted through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. Police launched coordinated operations across Lucknow, specifically targeting Aminabad, Hasanganj, Madey Ganj and Sadar Cantt areas. Using a blend of technical surveillance and field intelligence, the investigation team identified individuals managing mule accounts used to launder and siphon off stolen funds.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Mohd. Ovais, 25, a flex-printing shop worker; Vishal Tiwari, 19, a first-year student employed at a grocery chain; Shakeel Ahmad, 53, a tailor already facing trial in another case; and three others — Mohd. Ahad, Mohd. Atif, and Mohd.

DELHI AIR EMERGENCY

SC to hear PIL on controlling air pollution today

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is set to resume hearing on Monday the public interest litigation (PIL) concerning alarming air pollution levels in the national capital and the adjoining areas. The hearing assumes significance as stubble burning and stagnant weather conditions continue to push Delhi-NCR's air quality into the severe category.

As per the cause list uploaded on the Apex Court's website, a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N.V. Anjaria will take up the matter for further hearing on November 17.

In the previous hearing on November 12, the CJI Gavai-led Bench had expressed concern over the deteriorating air quality despite enforcement of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), and had directed the governments of Punjab and Haryana to file detailed affidavits outlining the steps taken to curb stubble burning.

The Top Court took note of submissions which highlighted that AQI has crossed 450 at several locations in Delhi-NCR.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan had pointed out that even routine construction activities, including drilling work outside the Supreme Court's own premises, were continuing despite hazardous conditions.

At least for a few days, such activities should stop, Sankaranarayanan told the Apex Court.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, the amicus curiae assisting the Supreme Court, had also flagged discrepancies in official pollution data and warned that the situation had become very dangerous.

The CJI Gavai-led Bench, which has been monitoring the issue closely, had earlier called for a report from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on its monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and had even asked the Centre to consider strict penalties, including arrests, to deter farmers from burning crop residue.

Recently, Apex Court judge Justice P. S. Narasimha urged advocates to avoid physical appearances in Supreme Court proceedings and instead opt for virtual hearings, warning that Delhi's toxic air could cause permanent damage.

ED seizes cash, 'incriminating documents' from Phagwara exporter

NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has launched a major action against a Phagwara-based engineering exporter for alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, the central agency said on Sunday. The searches, carried out on November 14 by the agency's Jalandhar Zonal Office, targeted four locations linked to M/s Opal Engineering Corporation (OEC), a firm engaged in the export of engineering goods.

According to the ED, the action was initiated after investigators detected serious discrepancies in how the company received its export proceeds.

OEC, which exported goods to countries including Syria, Iran, Turkey and Colombia, allegedly failed to realise export payments in accordance with FEMA guidelines and Reserve Bank of India mater circulars.

ED investigation revealed that Opal Engineering Corporation exported goods to countries, viz. Syria, Iran, Turkey, Colombia, etc. However, the export proceeds were not realised as per guidelines prescribed under FEMA, 1999 and RBI Mater Circulars, the ED said in its press note.

The agency's probe has revealed that instead of receiving payments from its actual buyers abroad, the firm reportedly took funds from unrelated third parties based in various countries.

No tri-partite agreements or supporting documentation validating such adjustments were produced by the firm, the ED noted.

The proceeds were adjusted against payments received from unrelated parties, from different countries and by taking payments into personal accounts. There were no tripartite agreements or any other documentary proof for adjustment entries from unrelated parties, the ED said.

Investigators also found that OEC allegedly relied on communication sent to a fake Customs email address to portray the transactions as genuine.

The ED claims that evidence collected during the searches suggests that several export-related financial settlements were conducted in cash.

QUICK READ

Severe weather sparks alerts

Johannesburg

South Africa remains on high alert as a strong cut-off low-pressure system brings heavy rain, severe thunderstorms and widespread flooding risks, the South African Weather Service (SAWS) reported on Sunday. Rainfall of 100–150 mm, powerful winds and intense storms are expected through early Monday. SAWS issued an orange level 9 warning for Gauteng and western Mpumalanga, cautioning that disruptive rainfall could flood roads, homes and low-lying areas, creating life-threatening conditions. Limpopo and parts of Mpumalanga are under an orange level 6 alert for severe storms and gusty winds.

Pak's detention of Afghan migrants hits record high in 2025

Islamabad

Pakistan has recorded its highest number of Afghan migrant arrests in 2025, according to a new UNHCR report. The agency said 100,971 Afghans were detained between January and mid-November, a sharp increase from about 9,000 arrests in 2024 and 26,000 in 2023. Most arrests occurred in Balochistan's Chagai and Quetta districts and Punjab's Attock district. UNHCR noted that 76% of detainees were either undocumented or Afghan Citizen Card holders, while 24% possessed valid Proof of Registration cards. The surge follows two government directives allowing authorities to remove Afghan migrants from Islamabad and Rawalpindi and permitting police to arrest PoR-card holders. Aid agencies warn that reduced funding and rising detentions.

Britain to make refugee status temporary under asylum overhaul

Britain has announced its most sweeping asylum overhaul yet, making refugee status temporary and extending settlement waits to 20 years

LONDON

Britain has announced its most far-reaching reform of asylum policy in decades, introducing measures that will make refugee status temporary and extend the path to permanent settlement from five years to 20.

The Labour government, under pressure from the rising popularity of the anti-immigration Reform UK party, aims to curb irregular migration, particularly small-boat crossings from France.

Inspired by Denmark's stringent model, the Home Office plans to make refugee protection subject to review every two and a half years. Status may be revoked if a person's home country is deemed safe. The government also intends to withdraw housing and financial support from asylum seekers who are able to work but do not, or who commit offences, prioritising assistance for those contributing economically and socially.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said she would unveil additional details soon, including proposed changes to how Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which relates to the right to family life, is interpreted in immigration cases. She argued the provision is frequently used to block removals of those who have no legal right to remain.

Charities and rights groups have sharply criticised the reforms, calling them harmful, divisive, and likely to fuel hostility and violence against migrants.

They argue that temporary status will trap refugees in prolonged uncertainty. Nonetheless, the government says it will expand "safe and legal" routes for those fleeing danger.

The shift comes as immigration has surpassed the economy as voters' top concern. More than 109,000 people sought asylum in Britain in the year to March 2025, the highest in over two decades. Ministers say the overhaul will align the UK with practices in several European nations, though critics contend it risks creating a harsher and less humane system.

Ukraine struck a new deal with Greece to secure winter gas supplies as Russian attacks intensify pressure on its energy system

Ukraine agrees on gas imports from Greece, says Zelenskyy

KYIV

Ukraine has reached an agreement with Greece to import natural gas this winter, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy announced on Sunday, saying the deal will help the country manage energy shortages caused by intensified Russian strikes. In a statement posted on Telegram, Zelenskiy said the new arrangement would provide Ukraine with an additional supply route to reinforce its energy security during the cold months.

According to the president, Ukraine has already secured financing commitments for gas purchases and plans to cover nearly 2 billion euros (about $2.3 billion) in import costs. These funds, he said, will compensate for substantial losses in domestic gas production triggered by Russian attacks targeting energy infrastructure. The announcement comes as Zelenskiy prepares to travel to Greece, followed by visits to France and Spain. As the war moves into its fourth year, Russia has increased assaults on Ukraine's energy network, hitting power generation sites, electricity transmission lines, and gas production facilities. These repeated strikes have significantly weakened Ukraine's ability to meet national consumption needs, especially during winter. Zelenskiy noted that Kyiv has arranged financing for the gas imports through European institutions, including banks backed by European Commission guarantees, along with support from Ukrainian financial institutions. He also said cooperation with U.S. partners is ongoing to ensure that the full amount needed for imports is secured. Expanding energy partnerships remains central to Ukraine's strategy this winter. Zelenskiy highlighted ongoing collaboration with Polish counterparts, where Ukraine is working alongside Azerbaijan to diversify energy routes. Kyiv hopes these efforts will lead to new long-term supply contracts, further strengthening the nation's resilience against disruptions caused by the war.

Ukraine set to restart prisoner exchange talks with Russia

KYIV

Ukraine has signalled its readiness to resume prisoner exchange efforts with Russia after renewed consultations mediated by Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Rustem Umerov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, said the discussions resulted in both sides agreeing to reactivate the Istanbul arrangements, which cover the release of around 1,200 Ukrainian captives.

Umerov noted that technical consultations will begin soon to finalise procedural and organisational steps, with Kyiv aiming to secure the return of its citizens by the winter holidays.

Earlier this year, Ukraine and Russia held three negotiation rounds in Turkey—during May, June, and July—where they reached agreements on exchanging detainees and the remains of fallen soldiers.

In August, both nations carried out another swap involving 146 prisoners, while Ukraine also returned eight residents from Russia's Kursk region. That area was briefly captured by Ukrainian forces in 2024 before Russia regained control in early 2025. The Russian soldiers involved in the exchange are currently in Belarus receiving medical and psychological care before their transfer to Russia.

Mediation by the UAE has played a key role in facilitating recent swaps.

The July 23 peace talks in Istanbul saw both sides agree to exchange at least 1,200 prisoners each, building on earlier agreements that prioritised the exchange of injured or seriously ill detainees, younger soldiers, and the bodies of the deceased.

Indian Naval Chief visits USS Daniel Inouye

WASHINGTON

Indian Naval Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi visited the Arleigh Burke–class guided-missile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye in the United States, where he was briefed on the vessel's advanced upgrades, multi-mission capabilities, and sophisticated maritime surveillance systems. He also toured Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam, receiving updates on the operational readiness and ongoing initiatives of the US Pacific Fleet and units stationed at the joint facility.

According to an official statement, Admiral Tripathi's visit underscores the growing emphasis on interoperability and operational coordination between the Indian and US navies. The Indian Navy, in a post on X, highlighted that the tour reinforced both nations' shared commitment to maintaining peace, stability, and cooperation across the Indo-Pacific region. Admiral Tripathi is in the US on an official visit aimed at deepening the long-standing maritime partnership—an important pillar of the broader India-US Defence Partnership.

On Saturday, he held a series of high-level meetings with senior US military leaders, including Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command; Admiral Stephen T. Koehler, Commander of the US Pacific Fleet; and Lieutenant General James F. Glynn, Commander of US Marine Forces Pacific. The discussions reviewed major areas of defence cooperation, stressing enhanced maritime security.

120 injured as Gen Z-styled protests spread to Mexico

Thousands across Mexico staged Gen Z-led protests after the mayor of Uruapan was murdered, sparking clashes, injuries and renewed anger over rising violence.

MEXICO CITY

Protests inspired by "Generation Z" spread across Mexico as thousands of people demonstrated against worsening violence, following the high-profile killing of an anti-crime mayor earlier this month. The unrest, which spanned several cities, underscored growing frustration among young Mexicans over crime, corruption, and impunity. At least 120 people - 100 of them police officers - have been injured in clashes during anti-government protests in Mexico City, police said. Thousands of demonstrators marched in the Mexican capital on Saturday to protest against violent crime and President Claudia Sheinbaum's government.

In Mexico City, tensions escalated when a small contingent of hooded protesters dismantled metal barriers surrounding the National Palace, where President Claudia Sheinbaum resides. Reuters witnesses reported clashes between demonstrators and riot police, who responded with tear gas. According to Mexico City Public Safety Secretary Pablo Vazquez, around 100 police officers were injured during the confrontation, 40 of whom required hospital treatment. He also reported 20 civilian injuries, along with 20 arrests and another 20 individuals detained for administrative violations.

Protest marches were held nationwide, including in Michoacan, where anger has surged following the Nov. 1 assassination of Uruapan Mayor Carlos Manzo. The mayor was shot dead during a public Day of the Dead celebration, intensifying public outrage over insecurity. In the capital, some demonstrators directed their frustrations at President Sheinbaum's ruling Morena party, chanting "Out, Morena" and calling for stronger action against criminal violence. Others shouted, "Carlos did not die, the government killed him," accusing authorities of failing to protect citizens.

A collective calling itself "Generation Z Mexico," which organized the nationwide rallies, described itself in a widely shared manifesto as a non-partisan movement representing young people disillusioned with systemic violence and corruption. The group aligns itself with global Gen Z-led protest movements seeking social and political reform.

Pak struggles with deepening climate and devpt crises: Report

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan continues to confront deep-rooted socioeconomic and environmental challenges, according to a new report, which highlights the country's low Human Development Index score of 0.544 and its 168th global ranking. Pakistan also stands 15th in the Climate Risk Index 2026, reflecting its extreme vulnerability to climate impacts that successive governments have struggled to manage.

These risks are intensified by heavier rainfall in key catchment areas, accelerating silt buildup in major dams and reducing water storage capacity, ultimately heightening flood threats. Rising temperatures are creating heat and water stress, especially in arid regions, harming agricultural productivity. Air pollution from vehicles, industry, and farming has led to chronic smog in major cities, disrupting aviation, reducing visibility, and causing widespread respiratory illness.

The Diplomat report notes declining forest cover, severe saline intrusion in the Indus Delta, and damage to mangroves, fisheries, and coastal farmlands. Sea-level rise and frequent cyclones are endangering coastal communities, while water disputes, health crises, and climate-induced migration deepen national instability. The Indus Basin remains under severe pressure, with NASA identifying it in 2015 as the world's second-most overstressed aquifer.

Extreme weather events continue to inflict major economic losses. At recent COP summits, Pakistan has repeatedly called for fair climate financing and adaptation support, especially after the devastating 2022 floods that affected 33 million people. However, the absence of top federal leaders at COP30 signals shifting priorities and tempered expectations.

Australia welcomes Trump's removal of beef tariffs

SYDNEY

Australia on Sunday offered a measured welcome to U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to lift tariffs on beef, while reiterating its push for the complete removal of all U.S. tariffs on Australian exports. Trump scrapped duties on more than 200 food items, including beef, on Friday as Americans grew increasingly concerned about rising grocery bills. Australia became the largest supplier of red meat to the United States in 2024, providing competitively priced, lean beef that the U.S. market lacks. Foreign Minister Penny Wong said on ABC television that the removal of beef tariffs was positive news for Australian producers. However, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stressed that Canberra would continue to call for fully reciprocal tariffs—meaning no tariffs at all between the two countries. Trump refers to some of his tariffs as "reciprocal," linking them to the size of America's trade deficit with each nation.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

		1			5		7	
6		2	3	8		9	4	
	9	3	7	4			6	8
3			5	1			9	
1	2			9	4	5		7
9	5			2	3	8	1	
7			1	5		4	2	
2	1				6		8	
4		9	2		8		5	1

5	2	1	7	4	8	3	9	6
9	4	8	2	6	3	7	1	5
6	3	7	1	5	9	4	8	2
3	7	5	9	8	1	2	6	4
4	8	9	6	3	2	5	7	1
1	6	2	4	7	5	9	3	8
8	1	4	5	9	7	6	2	3
2	9	6	3	1	4	8	5	7
7	5	3	8	2	6	1	4	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

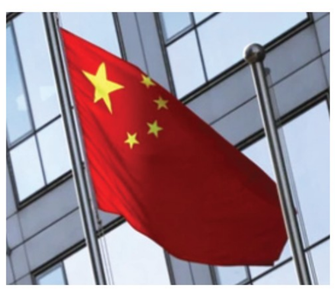
Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

SENKAKU TENSIONS ESCALATE

China coast guard patrol near Senkaku escalates tensions

BEIJING

A formation of China Coast Guard vessels sailed through waters surrounding the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands on Sunday as part of what Beijing described as a "rights enforcement patrol." The move comes amid escalating tensions between China and Japan following recent comments by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi regarding Taiwan's security. Relations between the two countries deteriorated after Takaichi told parliament on November 7 that a potential Chinese attack on Taiwan could prompt a military response from Japan. Her remarks drew a sharp backlash from Beijing, which has demanded that she withdraw or clarify her statement. China considers Taiwan part of its territory and has not ruled out using force to bring the island under its control, while Taiwan firmly rejects China's sovereignty claims.



In its statement, the China Coast Guard asserted that vessel 1307 and its formation conducted a lawful patrol inside the territorial waters of what China calls the Diaoyu Islands. Clashes between Chinese and Japanese vessels in this area are frequent, as both countries claim sovereignty over the islands.

Japan has faced increasing diplomatic pressure since Takaichi's comments.

China's Consul General in Osaka issued a provocative remark that triggered a formal protest from Tokyo.

Beijing then summoned Japan's ambassador for the first time in over two years, and China's defence ministry warned that any Japanese involvement in a Taiwan conflict would be futile.

Meanwhile, China advised its citizens against travelling to Japan, leading several Chinese airlines to offer free ticket changes or refunds.

Taiwan's defence ministry also reported heightened military activity, detecting dozens of Chinese aircraft and naval ships operating near the island as part of what it described as ongoing pressure tactics.

QUICK READ

India's spice exports set to rise as Trump reverses tariff increase

New Delhi

Indian exports of food goods such as spices, tea and cashew nuts to the US market are set to benefit from a major tariff cut announced by President Donald Trump on nearly 200 food products to make them more affordable for local consumers, following a political backlash over rising prices. Among the products included in the revised list are an array of Indian exports, black pepper, cloves, cumin, cardamom, turmeric, ginger, several tea varieties, mango derivatives and nuts such as cashew.

GenAI adoption surges across Indian businesses

New Delhi

India's enterprise AI landscape has reached an inflexion point as nearly half of Indian enterprises (47 per cent) now have multiple Generative AI (GenAI) use cases live while 23 per cent are in pilot stage - marking a decisive shift from pilots to performance, a report said on Sunday. Indian enterprises are demonstrating strong confidence by embedding AI into core business workflows to deliver measurable results. Notably, 76 per cent of business leaders believe that GenAI will have a significant business impact, and 63 per cent feel ready to leverage it effectively.

Jagriti consumer grievance platform crosses 2.75 lakh users

New Delhi

The Department of Consumer Affairs on Sunday announced that its unified consumer grievance platform, e-Jagriti, has registered more than 2.75 lakh users since its launch on January 1, 2025. The user base also includes 1,388 Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), highlighting the platform's growing reach. Launched as a next-generation digital system, e-Jagriti aims to streamline and modernise consumer grievance redressal across India. The platform consolidates older systems such as the Online Consumer Mediation System (OCMS), e-Daakhil, NCDRC Case Management System, and the CONFONET portal, offering users a single, integrated interface for filing and tracking complaints. Officials said the unified structure has significantly improved accessibility and efficiency in handling consumer issues nationwide.

India and Russia advance talks on India–EAEU free trade agreement

India and Russia intensified discussions in Moscow on the proposed India–EAEU Free Trade Agreement to boost economic partnership

MOSCOW

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal held high-level discussions in Moscow with key Russian and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) leaders to advance the proposed India–EAEU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Commerce Ministry announced on Sunday. The meetings form part of ongoing efforts to deepen bilateral trade and expand India's market access across Eurasian economies.

Agrawal met Andrey Slepnev, Minister in charge of Trade at the Eurasian Economic Commission, and Mikhail Yurin, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation. He also addressed a business networking plenary attended by representatives from Indian and Russian industries, reiterating India's commitment to strengthening a balanced and resilient trade partnership.

The discussions built on the outcomes of the India–Russia Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation, focusing on supply chain resilience, regulatory predictability, and diversification of trade. These efforts align with the leaders' shared vision to achieve $100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030 while creating new opportunities for Indian exports through industrial and technological collaboration.

During the meeting with Minister Slepnev, both sides reviewed the next steps for the India–EAEU FTA in goods. The Terms of Reference signed on August 20, 2025, provide an 18-month roadmap to broaden market access for Indian MSMEs, farmers, and fishermen. As the process progresses, negotiations will also examine services and investment tracks.

In discussions with Deputy Minister Yurin, the Commerce Secretary explored avenues to expand trade diversification and cooperation in critical minerals. Key sectors identified for enhanced engagement include pharmaceuticals, telecom equipment, machinery, automobiles, chemicals, and leather.

Both sides also agreed to establish quarterly regulator-to-regulator engagements, aimed at easing market entry barriers and improving trade facilitation. The visit marks a crucial step in India's strategy to deepen economic integration with the Eurasian region while supporting exporters through new and emerging trade corridors.

S. Korea prez Lee reaffirms commitment to corporate freedom

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday reaffirmed his government's commitment to minimizing barriers for corporate activity, during a high-level meeting with leaders of the nation's top conglomerates. The discussion comes two days after Seoul and Washington announced a joint fact sheet outlining new bilateral trade and security agreements, including South Korea's pledge to invest USD 350 billion in the U.S. in return for a tariff reduction from 25 percent to 15 percent.

President Lee Jae Myung meets major conglomerate leaders, pledging support following landmark U.S. trade and investment agreement

The government's key role is to ensure companies can operate freely and creatively across global markets, President Lee told the participants, according to the presidential office. He emphasized that while securing tariff concessions was a very difficult process, the outcome reflected a successful strategic negotiation amid shifting global economic conditions.

Attendees included Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong, SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, Hyundai Motor Group Executive Chair Euisun Chung, LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo, and top executives from HD Hyundai and Hanwha. President Lee urged them to adapt swiftly to the new trade framework and seize emerging opportunities.

What is more important is the future, he said, noting that companies play a frontline role in sustaining livelihoods and driving economic growth. He pledged government support, including deregulation and rapid resolution of corporate challenges.

Addressing concerns that massive U.S. investments could affect domestic priorities, Lee called on companies to maintain strong commitments at home. In response, industry leaders announced plans to boost hiring and expand local investments.

Samsung's Lee revealed plans to hire 60,000 workers domestically over the next five years and expand R&D and facility spending. SK Group's Chey announced a projected 600 trillion won (USD 412.2 billion) investment in its Yongin semiconductor complex. Hyundai Motor Group plans to invest 125 trillion won by 2030 and hire 10,000 employees next year, up from 7,200 this year. Hanwha also confirmed a 7 trillion won investment in its U.S. shipyard, expected to open new avenues for Korean shipbuilding suppliers.

The meeting underscored the administration's dual focus: expanding global trade influence while safeguarding domestic economic strength.

Indian govt on devpt path to empower citizens: Jim Rogers

NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi-led central government understands that prosperity is good, success is good and they want people to be successful as earlier governments kept talking about but never meant it, veteran American investor and financial commentator Jim Rogers has said. Rogers said he has always been a fan of India as a country, but never the government that was in power before 2014. However, the concrete development happening under the current government made him appreciate the Indian government for the first time.

Well, I will tell you, I have been a fan of India as a country all my life, but never of the government, the veteran investor said. But it seems to me that now, for the first time in my investment career, the government in India seems to understand that prosperity is good, success is good, and they want people to be successful. They always said it, but they never meant it earlier, he added.

Now, this government understands and means it, and it's very exciting for the future of India, for the first time in my investment life, he said further.

Speaking on the potential India-US trade deal, Rogers said that he is excited about the nation making any deal because now the government have understood that prosperity is good. I am happy if India is making deals with many countries, be it the US or any other nation. The country is going to be highly successful in future, he noted. Roger also condemned the Delhi car blast, saying that the People behind the incident, which took place near the Red Fort Metro Station, will not be successful as India is developing fast and is going to be a very exciting nation in the future.

President Lee Jae Myung promises full inquiry and strict action after seven workers die in Ulsan thermal plant collapse.

S. Korean prez vows accountability after Ulsan plant collapse

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday pledged a thorough investigation into possible safety failures following the tragic collapse of a 63-meter tower at a thermal power plant construction site in Ulsan, which claimed seven lives. The last of the trapped workers was recovered on Friday, marking a devastating end to the rescue operation that began after the November 6 accident.

In a deeply emotional message posted on Facebook, and cited that President Lee expressed profound regret, stating, As the person ultimately in charge of public safety, I am genuinely and deeply sorry. Despite the people's wishes, all seven trapped workers returned to their families as bodies. My heart is deeply torn. He described the incident as one that should not have happened, emphasizing the need to prevent such workplace tragedies.

Lee vowed to hold those responsible to account, regardless of rank or position. He called for a swift and comprehensive probe to determine the exact cause of the structural failure and whether safety protocols were overlooked. The president also directed ministries to reassess safety conditions at industrial sites nationwide, especially with the onset of winter, when construction risks can increase.

We need to put an end to such a tragedy, where workplaces become a site of death, he wrote, highlighting his administration's commitment to improving labor safety standards.

In a separate post on X, Lee underscored the importance of accountability in governance, stating that rewarding merit and punishing negligence is key to maintaining institutional integrity. His comments align with his administration's recent efforts to investigate public officials involved in last year's failed martial law plot, while simultaneously introducing reforms to strengthen active public administration and restore confidence in the civil service.

The Ulsan tragedy has reignited public debate over workplace safety and regulatory oversight, placing renewed pressure on authorities to enforce stricter monitoring and preventive measures at industrial sites across South Korea.

'India seen as global digital powerhouse'

NEW DELHI

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has played a transformational role in enabling universal access to services, bridging urban–rural gaps and strengthening the country's position as a global digital powerhouse, a senior government official said on Sunday.

Addressing an event organised by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Special DG, BISAG-N, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Vinay Thakur, placed special focus on the scale, strength, and evolution of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) – considered one of the most advanced in the world.

He highlighted how initiatives such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, BharatNet, Co-WIN, UMANG, MeghRaj Cloud and GIS-based platforms of BISAG-N have collectively transformed governance, public service delivery and citizen empowerment.

Thakur, a national expert in digital governance and cybersecurity, emphasised that these achievements are a direct reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary Digital India movement, which aims to build a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Thakur emphasised how the Prime Minister's leadership has enabled technology to become a tool for social inclusion, transparency and economic acceleration.

Thakur also stressed the critical need for cybersecurity frameworks to secure the nation's growing digital ecosystem. He highlighted the rising cyber threats, importance of the DPDP Act, AI-enabled cyberattacks, urgent need for post-quantum cryptography (PQC) and the significance of indigenous solutions for digital sovereignty.

India's space programme soars with new milestones

NEW DELHI

India's space ambitions continue to scale new heights, marked most recently by the successful launch of a 4,400-kg communication satellite -- one of the heaviest the country has ever placed in orbit, a report said on Sunday. With decades of domestic innovation since the launch of Aryabhata in 1975, India entered the space age, and this accomplishment further solidifies its place among the world's leading spacefaring nations.

Over the years, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has built a diverse fleet of satellites and demonstrated strong launch capabilities through vehicles such as the PSLV, GSLV, and LVM3, a report in timesofoman.com said.

According to the report, the upcoming Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is set to strengthen India's presence in the global small-satellite market.

Additionally, ISRO has already launched 354 foreign satellites from 34 countries into orbit and holds the world record for launching 104 satellites in a single mission in 2017.

Following Chandrayaan-3's historic landing close to the Moon's south pole in 2023 -- a feat no other country has accomplished -- India's standing in the world of space exploration skyrocketed.

The mission, which cost only $75 million -- much less than some Hollywood space movies -- was praised by leaders and organisations around the world, including NASA, European Space Agency, and the Australian Space Agency.

ISRO's low-cost, high-impact approach has been consistently evident.

The Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan), launched at $74 million, made India the first Asian nation to reach Martian orbit and the first worldwide to succeed on its maiden attempt. The mission, which was supposed to last six months, produced scientific observations for eight years.

With the Aditya-L1 mission, which positioned a space observatory in a halo orbit around Lagrange Point 1, India also achieved a significant advancement in solar science.

HYUNDAI AI INVESTMENT

Hyundai announces ₩125 trillion investment in AI

SEOUL

Hyundai Motor Group on Sunday unveiled an unprecedented investment plan worth 125.2 trillion won (USD 86 billion) to be spent in South Korea over the next five years. The announcement marks the largest investment in the company's history and demonstrates Hyundai's long-term strategy to secure advanced technological leadership while reinforcing its domestic manufacturing capabilities.

The move follows the recent Seoul–Washington joint fact sheet that reduced U.S. tariffs on South Korean cars and auto parts from 25 percent to 15 percent, unlocking significant trade benefits for Korean automakers. The investment plan was announced shortly after Hyundai Motor Group Executive Chair Euisun Chung joined other major business leaders in a meeting with President Lee Jae Myung to discuss post-agreement measures.

The new investment target, scheduled for 2026–2030, represents a more than 40 percent increase compared to the 89.1 trillion won Hyundai invested over the previous five years. According to the company, the funds will be used to accelerate breakthroughs in core future-business areas and secure what it calls fundamental growth drivers.

Out of the total investment, 50.5 trillion won is earmarked for future-focused sectors such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and software-defined vehicles (SDVs). A further 38.5 trillion won will support research and development initiatives, while 36.2 trillion won is designated for upgrading and expanding production facilities.

Hyundai also announced plans to retroactively cover U.S. tariffs imposed this year on key parts suppliers for Hyundai and Kia plants in the United States — a gesture aimed at reinforcing supply chain stability and supporting partner companies affected by trade pressures.

Industry analysts estimate that due to the new tariff reduction, Hyundai Motor Group could save approximately 4 trillion won in additional costs, creating more room for strategic reinvestments. The aggressive funding underscores Hyundai's ambition to remain at the forefront of global automotive innovation in an era increasingly defined by AI-driven mobility and robotics integration.

FM to continue pre-budget consultations with industry stakeholders

NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry will resume pre-Budget consultations for the Union Budget 2026–27 on November 18, beginning with meetings involving capital market representatives, startups, and the manufacturing sector. On November 19, discussions will focus on the BFSI and IT industries, followed by hospitality, tourism, and labour unions on November 20. Infrastructure, energy, and urban development stakeholders are scheduled for November 21, with social sector representatives concluding the exercise on November 26.

Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held initial consultations with leading economists and later met MSME stakeholders, joined by senior officials from the Department of Economic Affairs.

A WEAPON OF CHOICE

IED: 5 deadly parts and a castrophic outcome

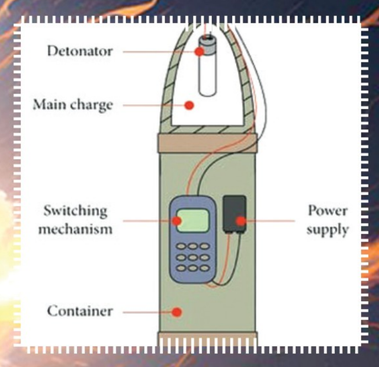
Easy to make and use, but can inflict maximum damage; low risk for attacker, except in suicide blasts; these combinations make IEDs a weapon of choice for terror groups worldwide

Misuse of commercial explosives, detonators

Commercial explosives and detonators are legally used for mining, road work, and construction, but only with a proper license. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), under the Ministry of Commerce, keeps a close watch on the production, supply, storage, and final use of these explosives. Over the years, PESO has done an excellent job, but because it has limited staff and reach, some theft and misuse still happen at the end-user level, especially in insurgency-hit areas.

Crucial need of National Counter-IED Policy

These challenges show why India needs a full National Counter-IED Policy that covers both big-picture strategy and ground-level action, making sure all agencies work together with clear roles and responsibilities. And finally, full credit must go to the brave doctor-cop of Srinagar, who smartly identified the Jaish posters, carried out a deep investigation, and led an almost perfect operation that successfully busted this new type of terror module. His work reminds us that vigilance and intelligence are our best weapons against terror. But tragically, on Friday night at Nowgam police station, nine people including policemen and forensic experts were killed when seized explosives accidentally detonated during examination, reminding us that improper storage and handling of confiscated explosives can be equally deadly.



Girish Linganna
Defence and Space Analyst

The recent Red Fort blast has once again brought the grim reality of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) into our living rooms.

What's IED?

An IED is basically a homemade bomb that terrorists pack into a small box or bag, and it can injure, kill, and terrify innocent people. It shows how dangerous a misguided human mind can become when it decides to cause harm.

Why do terrorists love IEDs

But why do terrorists love using IEDs so much? The answer is surprisingly simple. First, these attacks are low-risk for the attacker because they can plant the device and simply walk away, except in suicide blasts. Second, IEDs are shockingly easy to make using materials that anyone can buy from regular shops. This combination makes them the weapon of choice for terror groups across the world.

The 5 'deadly' parts of IEDs

A basic IED has just five main parts that work together like a deadly puzzle. There is a container to hold everything, a battery to provide power, a detonator that triggers the blast, a switch to start it all, and of course, the explosive material itself. When someone turns on the switch by any method, it starts the circuit and finally causes the explosion. Terrorists often make these devices even more dangerous by adding ball bearings, nails, metal pieces, or harmful chemicals to increase the damage when it explodes.

Here is something that might surprise you. Most parts of an IED, except the detonator, can be made using common items available in regular shops. Most terrorists around the world prefer using factory-made detonators because they are reliable and work exactly as expected. These are professionally produced in licensed factories, tested and stable with proper quality control. But Ibrahim al-Asiri, Al-Qaeda's main bomb-maker, was known for making homemade detonators on his own. Even then, these homemade detonators are unsafe and unstable, and can be very risky to handle for many reasons.

Segregation of explosives

When investigators arrive at a blast site, they become detectives looking for clues. M A Ganapathy, who was the Director General of the National Security Guard from 2021 to 2024, has shared his expert views on this subject in the Indian Express, and his insights help us understand how investigators work. The type of explosive used gives important clues. It could be military-grade like TNT or RDX, commercial like dynamite, or homemade like ANFO made from simple chemicals. Each type helps identify the possible terror group behind the blast because terror groups usually stick to the same method of making IEDs. They have practice and skill in building that particular type, and they rarely change their way of working.

Unique bomb signature of terrorists

The switch mechanism also tells a story. It can be command-operated where the terrorist triggers it, timer-operated, or victim-operated like suitcase bombs or landmines. The way an IED is carried or placed, whether in a suicide vehicle, a normal vehicle, or on a person, helps investigators identify the unique bomb signature of the terrorist group involved. The National Bomb Data Centre under the NSG keeps all bomb blast records in India and gives expert advice on the type and design of each device.

Scap can turn into a deadly bomb!

There is some good news though. The numbers show a clear decline in IED blasts in both conflict areas and in the interior parts of the country. But we cannot become careless. The 2019 Pulwama suicide attack on the CRPF convoy shows how deadly these devices can be. That IED had about 200 kg of explosives. Around 20 kg was RDX brought in from Pakistan, and the remaining 180 kg was made from Superpower-90, a commercial explosive illegally taken from a mining area, along with ammonium powder and fertiliser that were easily bought locally from regular shops. This shows how easily available materials can be turned into a deadly mix.

The drone-carriers

Another worrying trend in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab is Pakistan sending ready-made sticky bombs into India using drones. These magnetic IEDs carry small payloads filled with military-grade explosives. Thankfully, such drone drops have reduced a lot in recent years. In Naxal areas too, IED blasts have reduced sharply.

Role of border surveillance

So where do terrorists get these explosives from? Military-grade explosives are mostly sent by Pakistani handlers across the border using drones or human couriers. Even though our border security is much better now, as Ganapathy points out, our soldiers must stop every attempt to smuggle explosives. But the masterminds need to get lucky only once to send a big batch across. So it becomes a constant cat-and-mouse game where we must keep improving our surveillance and stay alert all the time.

We're breathing plastic! A toxic secret...

India, already battling some of the world's most severe air pollution, faces a worrying new dimension to its air quality crisis: the presence of inhalable microplastics. The phrase "breathing plastic" has become a stark descriptor for a threat that is often invisible but potentially carries profound health risks.

Dr Vijay Garg
Retired Principal & Educationist

Ubiquitous microplastics

A study by scientists from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology found thousands of tiny plastic particles in air samples from Delhi, even during summer and monsoon seasons. These microplastics are a significant, year-round pollutant.

Sources of microplastics

These particles originate from various everyday sources, including clothing fibers, single-use plastics, and the wear-down of car tires.

Health mpacts

- **Inhalation:** Microplastics can enter the human body through inhalation, with particles small enough to reach deep into the lungs.
- **"Trojan Horse" effect:** Airborne microplastics can act as a vector, carrying harmful chemicals and pathogens into the body.
- **Potential risks:** Studies suggest potential health risks like bronchitis, lung inflammation, and cancer. They have also been found in placentas and breast milk.
- **Slow, silent danger:** Medical experts warn of the slow, silent danger these man-made particles pose, as they can act slowly within the body.

Unmonitored and unmanaged

Existing guidelines for waste management in India do not adequately address the challenges posed by airborne microplastics, leaving them largely unmonitored and unmanaged.

India's pollution landscape

India is one of the most polluted countries, with a high prevalence of plastic waste. The burning of plastics also contributes to air pollution, releasing toxic dioxins and increasing ground-level ozone conducted by institutions like the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Calcutta, have sounded the alarm on these microscopic plastic fragments—less than 10 micrometres wide—that are small enough to penetrate deep into human lungs.

Key findings on airborne microplastics in India

- **Significant Concentration:** Researchers analyzing air samples from major metropolitan areas like Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, and Mumbai have documented alarming levels. Average concentrations of inhalable microplastics were found to be highest in Kolkata (around 14 micrograms per cubic metre (\mu\text{g/m}^3)) and Delhi (around 13 \mu\text{g/m}^3).
- **Daily Inhalation:** The studies suggest a high rate of exposure. A person spending eight hours in a busy market in these cities could inhale hundreds of microplastic particles daily. For example, estimates point to 370 particles daily in Kolkata and 300 in Delhi.
- **Seasonal Variation:** Studies, particularly in Delhi, have noted that the estimated average daily exposure to microplastics can nearly double during the summer months compared to winter.
- **Sources of the Plastic:** The most abundant component of these airborne particles is often polyester fibres, primarily shed from synthetic clothing and textiles.

Other key contributors include

- Polyethylene (from single-use packaging).
- Styrene-butadiene rubber (from vehicle tyres and footwear wear).
- **The "Trojan Horse" Danger:** One of the most critical concerns is that these tiny plastic particles do not travel alone. Their rough, hydrophobic (water-repelling) surfaces make them ideal carriers, or "Trojan horses," for a cocktail of harmful substances:
- **Toxic Chemicals:** Heavy metals like lead, arsenic, and chromium have been found adhered to the microplastics.
- **Pathogens:** Bacterial and fungal species have also been documented on the surface of these airborne plastic fragments, raising the risk of transporting disease-causing microbes directly into the respiratory system.

Health and Regulatory Implications

While research is ongoing, the inhalation of microplastics is linked to a range of potential health issues, including:

- **Respiratory Problems:** Inflammation, asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia.
- **Systemic Risk:** The smallest particles can potentially enter the bloodstream, posing risks for cardiovascular diseases and even cancer over chronic exposure.

Call to add microplastics in pollutants

This escalating threat has prompted calls for regulatory action. India's National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to consider officially including microplastics in the list of pollutants regulated under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), recognizing the urgent need to monitor and mitigate this overlooked air contaminant. The "breathing plastic" phenomenon highlights that India's air pollution challenge is multifaceted, stemming not only from traditional sources like vehicular emissions and industrial activity but also from the ubiquitous use and poor disposal of plastic products in daily life.

Rajamouli faces huge IMAX test with VARANASI

Director SS Rajamouli has finally revealed the title of his much-awaited film with Superstar Mahesh Babu. The movie, named Varanasi, has already wowed audiences with its first glimpse, which highlights massive visuals, ambitious ideas, and rich world-building. But behind all the excitement lies what may be the toughest challenge of Rajamouli's career.

Varanasi is being made fully for IMAX, one of the most demanding formats in global cinema.

Fans are thrilled because the film will be presented in the large 1.43:1 IMAX screens, known for delivering an unmatched immersive experience. However, this choice also brings intense pressure, as IMAX requires flawless clarity, perfect lighting, sharp VFX, and extremely precise framing. Even small mistakes look bigger on these screens.

The challenge becomes even tougher because Varanasi is only the second Indian film designed completely for IMAX. The first is Nitish Tiwari's Ramayana, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, and Yash. That film is set for a Diwali 2026 release and is already listed on IMAX's global slate. Since Ramayana arrives first, it will set the technical bar for Indian IMAX filmmaking. If it impresses, Rajamouli must match or surpass it.

Rajamouli is known for mixing strong emotions with grand spectacle, and Varanasi demands artistic beauty along with technological mastery.

Every department—from camera work to VFX—must operate at peak performance. The early glimpse has sparked worldwide discussions, and excitement is rising quickly. Planned for a summer 2027 release, likely March 17, Varanasi is expected to push Indian cinema to new global heights.

Beloved Simpsons writer Dan McGrath passes away

Beloved comedy writer Dan McGrath, known for shaping some of television's most memorable animated moments, has died at the age of 61.

McGrath passed away on November 14 at a Brooklyn hospital after suffering a stroke.

His sister, Gail McGrath Garabadian, shared the heartbreaking news online, calling him a "one-of-a-kind" brother whose loss leaves the family devastated.

Born in Brooklyn in 1964, McGrath studied at Regis High School and later Harvard University, where he helped lead The Harvard Lampoon and directed theater productions.

His sharp wit earned him an Emmy nomination for his work on "Saturday Night Live" in 1992, during which he frequently wrote with stars Chris Farley and Adam Sandler.

McGrath's most celebrated achievement came with the "Homer's Phobia" episode of "The Simpsons," which earned him an Emmy in 1997.

The episode addressed themes of acceptance and misunderstanding through its humorous yet heartfelt story.

He also contributed to other fan-favorite episodes, including "Boy-Scoutz 'n the Hood," "The Devil and Homer Simpson," and "Time and Punishment."

Jeremy Renner denies any deal with Yi Zhou

Jeremy Renner's legal team has denied that the actor reached any settlement with filmmaker Yi Zhou, contradicting her claim of a "respectful resolution."

Zhou had earlier told TMZ that she and Renner had resolved their differences amicably and thanked his attorney, Marty Singer, for facilitating the talks. She said the resolution would allow both to continue their projects, including Chronicles of Disney and Stardust Future.

However, Singer clarified that no agreement exists. "There was no deal reached with Yi Zhou to resolve my client Jeremy Renner's substantial multi-million dollar claims against her," he told TMZ. Singer also stated that Zhou had "fabricated a story" about using Renner in an animated movie when he had only agreed to participate in a documentary. Zhou responded on Instagram, saying she understood that Renner's side was okay with the discussions but claimed she would not retract her earlier statements.

"I am willing to offer peace for all of us and forgiveness and move on. We can't be forced to retract what we don't wish to retract as they are the truth I experienced," she wrote.

The dispute follows Zhou's November 7 allegations that Renner sent her unwanted explicit images in June 2025 and later threatened to involve U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Zhou claimed she had previously dated Renner and said she felt frightened by his actions.

As the situation unfolds, both parties remain firm in their versions of events, and fans are closely watching for further updates on this high-profile controversy.

Akhanda 2 trailer date creates big buzz

Excitement is building among fans as Akhanda 2 moves closer to its grand release. The team behind the film, led by director Boyapati Sreenu and star Nandamuri Balakrishna, is preparing 2025. The makers adding even for a theatrical debut on December 5, have also confirmed a 3D version, more curiosity to the popular franchise. Industry circles are buzzing that the long-awaited trailer will be launched on November 28 in Hyderabad. While the team has not made an official announcement yet, sources suggest that preparations for the event are underway. Fans are waiting for confirmation, hoping the trailer will offer a clear glimpse of the scale and intensity Boyapati is known for. Promotions for the film are expected to begin soon. The team has planned to start with a song launch event in Vizag. After that, they will move to Bengaluru and other major cities for additional promotional activities. A complete schedule is likely to be shared in the coming days. Akhanda 2 features Samyuktha, Aadi Pinisetty, and several actors in important roles. Producers Raam Achanta and Gopi Achanta are backing the project, with M. Tejeswini Nandamuri presenting it.

Massive trailer event planned for Andhra King Taluka

Energetic Star Ram Pothineni is gearing up to thrill audiences with his upcoming film Andhra King Taluka. The movie, described as a biopic of a dedicated fan, has been steadily gaining attention. Each update from the team — from the catchy songs to the striking teaser — has pushed expectations even higher. Directed by Mahesh Babu P., the film is shaping up to be one of the season's most talked-about releases. The makers have announced that the highly awaited trailer will be unveiled on November 18 in Kurnool.

What makes the event even more special is a grand drone show planned on a never-seen-before scale. Organizers expect a massive turnout of movie lovers, and they aim to make the event creative, energetic, and unforgettable. The team hopes the show will set a new benchmark for promotional events in Telugu cinema. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers on a large scale, Andhra King Taluka features Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead. Actor Upendra plays a key role that is expected to add strength to the story. Music is being handled by the popular composer duo Vivek-Mervin, whose tunes are already generating strong interest among fans.

WAVES Film Bazaar showcases global film projects

NEW DELHI

The 19th edition of WAVES Film Bazaar, India's leading film market, is set to return with an exciting Co-Production Market featuring feature films and documentaries seeking international financing. The event will be held at the Marriott Resort in Goa from November 20 to 24, 2025, alongside the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). This year, 22 feature projects with global appeal have been selected, showcasing stories from India, France, the UK, Canada, the USA, Russia, the Philippines, and Singapore. The films represent a wide variety of languages including Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Manipuri, Tangkhul, Nepali, Malayalam, Haryanvi, English, Gujarati, Ladakhi, Konkani, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Kashmiri, Russian, Sanskrit, and Odia. Filmmakers will get a chance to pitch their projects to international and Indian producers, distributors.

Lakshmi Manchu opens up about her painful memory

Actor Lakshmi Manchu has spoken openly about a difficult experience from her teenage years. In an interview with Hauterrfly, she recalled being touched inappropriately for the first time when she was just 15 and studying in Class 10.

Lakshmi, daughter of veteran actor Mohan Babu, shared that she had a protected childhood and usually travelled to school with her driver, bodyguard, and mother. However, during one trip to collect hall tickets, students were asked to travel by public transport. Excited for the outing, she did not expect what followed.

On the way, strangers misbehaved with her. "The violation I faced made me feel dirty and confused," she recalled. "I was only 15. When I told my friends, they said it had happened to them too. That's when I realized I wasn't alone."

Reflecting on the incident, Lakshmi said such experiences are sadly common for women using public transport in India. During the #MeToo movement, she said she broke down because every issue mentioned by women's rights groups had happened to her as well.

Lakshmi also said that being from a well-known famisometimes makes speaking out harder, as public attention often feels burdensome.

The actor was last seen in the 2024 film Adiparvam and the JioHotstar series Yakshini. She also appeared as a contestant on The Traitors India earlier this year.

Historic Upset: SA Hand India First Home Loss Since 2010

Harmer's 8-wicket masterclass sinks India on treacherous pitch as hosts collapse

KOLKATA

South Africa stunned India by 30 runs in a dramatic third-day finish at the Eden Gardens, handing the hosts their first home defeat to the Proteas since 2010. Chasing a modest 124 on a crumbling surface, India folded for just 93, conceding a 0-1 deficit in the two-Test series. Simon Harmer, the veteran off-spinner with more than 1,000 first-class wickets, produced a match-defining performance, finishing with figures of 4/21 in the second innings and eight for 51 overall.

India's chase began under immense pressure as the pitch continued to play tricks. With Shubman Gill unavailable to bat, the effective scoreline of 38/4 deepened the sense of unease. Earlier in the morning, India were firmly in control with South Africa wobbling at 93/7. But the visitors dug out crucial runs to push their lead into a competitive zone, ensuring every run mattered on an increasingly unpredictable surface.

Harmer's spell to Rishabh Pant represented the tension of the hour. After sending down nine consecutive dot balls to the left-hander, the off-spinner slowed his pace and tempted Pant into a flick. The edge ballooned back to Harmer, triggering India's slide. The collapse revived memories of earlier chases gone wrong—121 all out against New Zealand, 170 against England—further adding to the afternoon's anxiety.

South Africa's early blows with the new ball set the tone, with Marco Jansen removing KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal in successive overs. Though Washington Sundar and Axar Patel showed brief resistance, the target proved too far on a pitch where no batter ever looked settled.

India now travel to Guwahati under pressure, needing a win to avoid Gautam Gambhir's second home series loss in under a year.

IPL 2026 retention: List of RCB players released and retained

BENGALURU

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finalised their retention list, releasing seven players while holding on to a strong core ahead of the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) mega auction. The franchise, fresh off its maiden title win, opted for continuity as head coach Andy Flower emphasised the importance of preserving a settled group that delivered consistent, high-quality cricket last season.

Among those released are Swastik Chikara, Mayank Agarwal, Liam Livingstone, Manoj Bhandage, Lungi Ngidi, Blessing Muzarabani and Mohit Rathee. The decisions reflect RCB's strategy to free up purse space while allowing room to strengthen in targeted areas during the upcoming auction. Despite parting ways with experienced names like Agarwal and Livingstone, the franchise expressed confidence that the outgoing players had contributed positively to the team environment.

RCB's retained list underlines its commitment to stability. Rajat Patidar, who will continue as captain, leads a strong contingent that includes stalwarts Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal. The batting unit retains further firepower through Phil Salt, Jitesh Sharma and Tim David. All-round options such as Krunal Pandya, Swapnil Singh, Romario Shepherd and Jacob Bethell add balance across formats.

RCB confirm retained core and release seven players ahead of 2026 auction

The franchise has also held on to its bowling strength with Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Nuwan Thushara, Rasikh Salam, Abhinandan Singh and Suyash Sharma forming a diverse attack equipped for varied conditions. This blend of experience and youthful enterprise remains central to RCB's philosophy.

Flower noted that while releasing players is always difficult, the management is pleased with the retained core and will look to plug gaps through smart auction purchases. With a solid base in place, RCB enter the 2026 season aiming to build on their championship momentum and push for back-to-back titles.

Slovenia Beat India to Reach Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers

BENGALURU

India's campaign to secure a place in next year's Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers ended in disappointment, as higher-ranked Slovenia clinched the Group G play-off 2–1 at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

The tie began with Shrivalli Bhamidipatty pushing 2021 French Open semifinalist Tamara Zidansek to three sets, but the Slovenian's consistency proved decisive in a 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 victory. Shrivalli recovered impressively after a shaky start, taking the second set with aggressive serving and deeper returns. But Zidansek regained control in the decider, using heavy topspin to push the Indian off balance and giving Slovenia an early 1–0 lead.

That left India's No. 1 Sahaja Yamalapalli facing the must-win pressure against Kaja Juvan. Backed by a loud home crowd, Sahaja began confidently, matching the world No. 98 from the baseline. At 3-4, however, Juvan carved out the first opening and converted a break point despite boos from the stands. Sahaja broke back for 4-4, but a lapse in her serve handed Juvan the set 6-4. The second set slipped away quickly as Juvan tightened her control with deep, flat strokes, breaking twice for a commanding 6-2 win to seal the tie for Slovenia.

India found consolation in the doubles rubber, where Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare staged an impressive fightback against Dalila Jakupovic and Nika Radisic. After dropping the first set 1-6, the Indians lifted their intensity to take the second 6-3 and closed out the super tiebreak 10/7. For the hosts, the loss underscored the challenge of competing against top European teams on a surface that favoured Slovenia's topspin-heavy style.

Spain virtually seal WC qualification in Georgia

TBILISI

Spain moved to the brink of securing direct qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a dominant 4-0 victory over Georgia, extending their perfect run in Group E to five wins from five. Although not mathematically through, their substantial goal-difference advantage means only a highly improbable scenario — a Turkey win by seven goals or more in their final group clash — could deny them automatic passage.

Despite missing several key players, including Lamine Yamal, Rodri Hernandez, Dani Carvajal and Nico Williams, La Roja were in complete control in Tbilisi. Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring from the spot after an early handball, marking his 20th goal for Spain and the 100th of Luis de la Fuente's tenure. Martin Zubimendi and Ferran Torres added two well-crafted goals before halftime, with Oyarzabal heading in his second after the break to seal a commanding win.

Spain have now scored 19 goals in the group without conceding, underlining their resurgence after their Euro 2024 triumph. Torres praised the collective effort, noting that while qualification is not sealed yet, confidence within the squad remains high.

De la Fuente, who recently told his players they were on course to become "legendary," watched his side dominate possession, strike the woodwork through Alex Baena, and continually stretch a Georgia team that struggled to match their intensity. Goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili prevented further damage, but Georgia's hopes of reaching a first-ever World Cup finals ended with the defeat.

Although Pau Cubarsi came close to scoring an own goal late on, Spain preserved their perfect defensive record. Zubimendi emphasised that despite the emphatic scoreline, there were still improvements to be made — a sentiment reflective of Spain's hunger to finish the job in style when they face Turkey next.

MAKHACHEV MAKES HISTORY

Makhachev wins 170-pound title, ties UFC record with 16th straight victory

NEW YORK

Islam Makhachev cemented his legacy as one of the UFC's most dominant champions after defeating Jack Della Maddalena via unanimous decision at UFC 322 to claim the 170-pound title and tie Anderson Silva's all-time record of 16 consecutive victories. In a controlled, grappling-heavy performance at Madison Square Garden, Makhachev neutralized Della Maddalena's striking threat and swept the scorecards 50-45, becoming one of the few fighters in UFC history to win championships in two weight divisions. Now 28-1, Makhachev relinquished his lightweight title earlier this year in pursuit of two-division glory — a dream he fulfilled with calculated precision. His win places him alongside legends like Georges St-Pierre, Daniel Cormier, Randy Couture, Conor McGregor and Jon Jones, all of whom have captured UFC gold in multiple weight classes. "All my life I wanted two belts," Makhachev said as he hoisted the welterweight title.

Della Maddalena, who entered the bout on an 18-fight tear and in his first title defense, struggled to find answers against Makhachev's relentless pressure. The Australian exited the cage without a post-fight interview after suffering his first loss as champion.

The co-main event saw Valentina Shevchenko retain her 125-pound title with a unanimous decision win over Zhang Weili in a bout that failed to ignite despite featuring two of the division's most accomplished fighters. Shevchenko notched her 11th title fight victory and became the first woman in UFC history to record 60 takedowns

Palestinian Team Draws 50k Fans for Symbolic Friendly in Spain

BILBAO

A friendly football match in Bilbao drew roughly 50,000 spectators as a selection of Palestinian players met a Basque Country team at San Mamés Stadium, home of Athletic Bilbao. Held amid worldwide demonstrations over Israel's military actions in Gaza, the event blended football with a strong show of solidarity.

All available tickets were taken, and the stands filled with Palestinian and Basque flags while thousands marched through the city before kickoff, chanting in support of Palestine.

Spain has seen sustained protests since Israel's response to the October 2023 Hamas attack, with Bilbao often serving as a hub for activism, including notable demonstrations during the 2023 Vuelta. Saturday's match featured professionals from Athletic Bilbao, Real Sociedad, and other Basque clubs, though Spain's national-team players were absent due to World Cup qualifiers. For the Palestinian side, the game opened a short tour of Spain aimed at raising awareness of Gaza's humanitarian crisis. Their next stop is Barcelona, where they will face a Catalonia selection. Despite its friendly status, the match carried powerful symbolic meaning.

GOA

Arjun Erigaisi Stuns Aronian to Enter FIDE World Cup Quarterfinals

Arjun Erigaisi delivered a stunning performance to defeat former World Cup winner Levon Aronian and reach the FIDE World Cup quarterfinals at Resort Rio. After a tense draw in the first game, Arjun unleashed a brilliant knight sacrifice in the second, forcing Aronian's resignation and drawing cheers from fans outside the venue. Aronian, gracious as ever, congratulated the rising Indian star days after naming him his favourite. With this victory, Arjun becomes one of only two top-10 seeds in the last eight and now faces China's Wei Yi. Meanwhile, Pentala Harikrishna settled for another draw and heads to tiebreaks today.

KOLKATA

Shubman Ruled Out of Remainder of First Test with Neck Injury

India captain Shubman Gill has been ruled out of the rest of the first Test against South Africa after sustaining a neck injury on Day 2. The BCCI confirmed that Gill remains under hospital observation and will take no further part in the match. Gill retired hurt on 4 after appearing to strain his neck while playing a sweep shot off Simon Harmer. He was later stretchered into an ambulance with his neck immobilised. The team management said he will continue to be monitored by the BCCI medical staff. With Gill unavailable, vice-captain Rishabh Pant will lead India for the remainder of the Test. Assistant coach Morne Morkel suggested the issue may have stemmed from a "bad night's sleep," rather than workload.

NEW DELHI

Australia-Born Ryan Williams Named in India Squad for AFC Qualifiers

Australia-born forward Ryan Williams, who recently secured his Indian passport, has been included in India's 23-member squad for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers match against Bangladesh in Dhaka on November 18. The team has been training in Bengaluru since November 6. Williams will travel with the squad, but his participation in the match depends on receiving a No-Objection Certificate from Football Australia, followed by mandatory clearances from FIFA and the AFC. The squad features senior players such as Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Sandesh Jhingan, Suresh Singh Wangjam and Lallianzuala Chhangte, with Khalid Jamil leading the team as head coach.

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